



# EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Fire Chief Mike Riel

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### 2014 STATISTICS:

STRUCTURE FIRES: 57

BRUSH FIRES: 41

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

20

EMS INCLUDING VEHICLE

ACCIDENTS: 676

PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS: 60

FALSE CALLS: 116

TECHNICAL RESCUE: 8

MISC: 2

2014 TOTAL: 1,030

Beginning 2014 we continued the improvement of service coverage with the addition of 3 career personnel. The addition of these personnel moved us from a 2 man engine company to 3 man engine company during our 24 hour, 7 days a week coverage. We have 1 career member working day shift, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. when we are the most exposed to limited additional personnel resources from our paid-on-call members. We have accomplished our goal to filling the holes in coverage needs with the success of our 24 hour, 7 days a week coverage. No longer are we concerned about if we will have an initial response vehicle responding to an emergency.

So the big question is, what's next? We are very aware of the increasing growth throughout the Fire District both in residential and business expansions. We are aggressively looking into the future service delivery needs of the fire district.

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

First, we would like to thank our staff, both full-time and part time paid and our retirees. Without you we could not be a successful fire district.

This spring will carry many changes for our Fire District. We are currently changing out our old lighting system and replacing them with new LED bulbs to help cut energy costs, become more ecologically friendly and cut down on replacement costs.

We have submitted for a Safer Grant that could fund 3 to 4 more career positions. The advantage to this grant is that if received, it covers all expenses of new hires for 2 years. As you can imagine, this would be an exceptional benefit to moving forward as personnel cost has the most impact to a budget. So to justify and plan, this next effort we will also be starting revisions to our Strategic Plan in the fall of 2015 and into the spring of 2016.

With the revised Strategic Plan, direction of the Board, budget, grants and overall growth we will layout the future of the fire district over the next 5 years. I am very optimistic that all these components will come together very quickly and meet the needs in the very near future. The future needs are my number one focus so that we keep pace with the those needs

and service deliveries that are quickly approaching.

Yakima County Fire District 4 continues to rely on its paid-on-call response personnel commitments and efforts for providing services. The ever increasing call volumes and time commitments of our paid-on-call personnel limit their availability. Nation wide there continues to be diminished growth in people serving as volunteers and it's not just occurring in the fire service.

I would like to continue to thank all of our personnel, their families, fire commissioners' and tax payers who make our service possible. Please visit our web site at [www.ycfd4.org](http://www.ycfd4.org) for current information, events and a great resource to learn about your local Fire Department.

-Chief Riel



Chairman Joe Gendron



Commissioner Dan McNulty



Commissioner Les Riel

Soon you will notice a new digital sign at station 40 that will be equipped to give you, the public, instant information about the District and pertinent information in our community.

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Fire District. Through an extensive hiring process, the District has gained another full-time staff member in Matt Mundy. Matt comes to us from Duvall

Washington with his wife and two kids. We are pleased and excited about what he brings to our department.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Commissioners took part in our annual education and training seminar. We as the board strive to be a well educated and trained group so that we can better serve the needs of our community. Thank you all again, we look forward to serving you in 2015.

## PREVENTION DIVISION

With one of the more mild winters the Yakima Valley has seen in years, this spring brings into focus an early fire season. Temperatures are above normal and our local vegetation is growing and drying at a very fast rate. The Yakima Valley has had an average of 6 degrees above normal for this time of year. Here are some tips for home and property owners to help mitigate and eliminate fire threat:

- Maintain a clear boundary around your home. Tall grasses and shrubs near your home pose and immediate threat to fire spread.
- Keep areas of lawn mowed and regularly watered.
- Keep informed of weather conditions and know when you can and cannot burn vegetation on your property. If the weather is hot and dry, so is the ground vegetation. Normal vegetation in our area ignites very quickly and spreads even faster.
- Clear roofs and gutters of leaves, branches, etc. to avoid accumulation of flammable materials.
- All combustibles such as firewood, picnic tables, boats, etc. should be kept away from structures.
- Garden hose's should be connected to a spigot or outlet.
- Addressing should be indicated near driveways and on all structures.

### FOURTH OF JULY

For many people in our area, the Fourth of July is a time where we can come together and enjoy being with family and friends as we celebrate our countries independence. The Fire Department, like every year will be monitoring the District and have many units patrolling our roads. In years past, we have been slowed and often times stopped while en-route to fires due to people in the middle of our streets.

## EVFD FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



### PANCAKE FEED

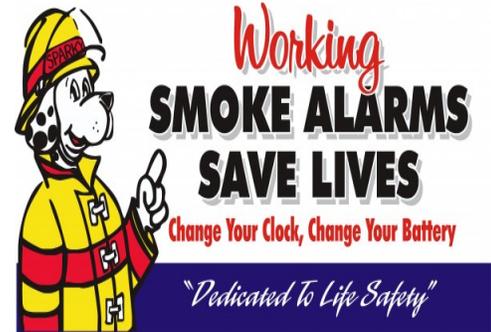
It's that time again! Mark those calendars for June 7th and bring your family out for a hot breakfast made by your local firefighters. Hot pancakes, ham and eggs will be served from 6 a.m. until noon. All proceeds go towards, helping families in need for Christmas, High School scholarships, The Northwest Burn Foundation and the East Valley High School Baseball Team. We hope to see all of you there!

We ask that roads be kept reasonably clear as we will be doing our best to extinguish any and all fires caused by the use of fireworks. The Fire Department see's a very high influx of grass fires during this time which can spread our resources thin. It's our job to keep you the public safe during these times. We ask everyone to be aware of proper times and areas that fireworks are allowed.

### WATER SAFETY

We have 6 main waterways running through the Terrace Heights and Moxee areas. These waterways present a unique hazard for the Fire Department. Remember, swimming in our local canals is not permitted. We ask that everyone be safe around our waterways and wear appropriate life jackets when near or in contact with water. Here are a few water safety tips to keep in mind this summer:

- Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children between 1 and 4 years old. And it's the third leading cause of injury-related death among children 19 and under.
- Never leave your child unattended around water. We know it sounds strict, but there is no room for compromise on this one. Babies can drown in as little as one inch of water.
- Empty all tubs, buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use. Store them upside down and out of children's reach.
- Parents have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. It will give you tremendous peace of mind and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better. Contact your local Department of EMS for class schedules.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket around water.



## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Yakima County Fire District #4 is looking for highly motivated individuals to join our team in serving the needs of our citizens. The East Valley Fire Department prides itself on the training of newly hired Firefighters. We educate our personnel in the roles of Firefighting and Emergency Medical Service's. The fire service is a very rewarding occupation, whether you are looking at making it a career or looking to help your local community. Applications can be picked up at EVFD Headquarters located at 2003 Beaudry Rd. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### EVFD 2014 AWARDS

Every year the East Valley Fire Department holds an awards banquet for its members. This banquet gives EVFD the opportunity to award individuals who show excellence in the fields of Firefighting and EMS services. This years award recipients were:

- Firefighter of the year: Lt. Tyler Brandt
- EMS person of the year: Tara Smith
- Leadership award: Lt. Scott Riel
- Bulldog award: Capt. Mike DiTomasso
- Highest training hours: Steven Feeney

Thank you to our personnel, their families, fire commissioners' and tax payers who make our service possible.

Please visit our web site @ [www.ycfd4.org](http://www.ycfd4.org)