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**2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

**STRUCTURE FIRES:**

**44**

**BRUSH FIRES:**

**53**

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:**

**33**

**EMS INCLUDING VEHICLE ACCIDENTS:**

**703**

**PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS:**

**94**

**FALSE CALLS:**

**191**

**TECHNICAL RESCUE:**

**1**

**MISCELLANEOUS / SERVICE CALLS:**

**1**

**2015 TOTAL :**

**1120**

**EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF**

With wildland fire season quickly approaching, our personnel have been actively preparing. Lieutenant Ryan Evers who oversees the departments training program has made the month of March primarily focused on wildland fire training. Shifts under the direction of Lieutenant Trevor Lenseigne have been preparing equipment for an expected busy season. We welcomed Charles Erickson as our newest career firefighter. Charles comes to us from Snohomish, WA. He began his employment January 1, 2016 filling a Day Shift vacancy. We are excited to welcome Charles as a part of our team. Prevention Program continues to be very active under the direction of Lieutenant Keith Schrank. Lieutenant Keith Schrank is our prevention and safety officer. He has one of the best ongoing school prevention programs you will find in the county that includes many activities. We also have a very active program for Wildland Pre-fires which is another part of our prevention program

overseen by Firefighter Eric Love. Wildland Pre-fires look at prevention and tactics to prevent and suppress wildland fires for residents within our district. We are very proud of this work and the successful results we have seen from it. We have an ongoing Pre-fire program performed by our shift crews that evaluates risk for businesses in the fire district while gathering information for use when a fire occurs. We also have Firefighter Sean McDonald whose focus is on community awareness of CPR and department medical response. If you have questions or suggestions for our prevention program please feel free to call or schedule an appointment with our Prevention/Safety Officer Lieutenant Keith Schrank so he can expand with you on what he is doing for fire prevention. The office number for contacting him is (509) 457-8615. Yakima County Fire District 4 continues to rely on its paid-on-call response personnel's commitments and efforts for providing services. The ever increasing call



Fire Chief Mike Riel

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 dedicated 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.

Michael Riel  
Fire Chief  
East Valley Fire  
Department  
Yakima County Fire  
District 4

# COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Commissioner  
David Ramynke



Chairman  
Les Riel



Commissioner  
Dan McNulty

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Commissioner Chairman Joe Gendron and former Firefighter/Commissioner Gerald Champoux. We share our deepest gratitude to them, their families and for their service to our community.

The Board would like to welcome our newly appointed Fire Commissioner David Ramynke. David and Dannette have resided in Terrace Heights for the last 20 years while raising their two daughters Riley and Raegan. We are excited to have David on our team and look forward to having him as a Board Member for years to come. David brings to our board a diverse mix of experience which includes business, law enforcement and fire service. Your Board of Commissioners appreciate the opportunity to represent you and invite you to attend our Board meetings the second and fourth Monday of each month @ 4:00 pm held at station 40.

The arrival of warmer spring weather comes as a reminder that 2016 is progressing quite rapidly. With that, your Commissioner's will be working diligently on several key initiatives with Chief Riel. These include revising our district's five year strategic plan, personnel recruitment and retention, and other items to better serve and protect our constituents of the East Valley Fire District.

**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)**

# PREVENTION DIVISION

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 8 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.

## 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.

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.

## PANCAKE FEED

It's that time again! Mark those calendars for June 5th 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!

