

# EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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2003 Beaudry Rd Yakima, WA 98901

(509) 457-8615

### ECRWSS STAMP PLACE HOLDER

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Visit us on the web at:

www.ycfd4.org



### East Valley, please join us in welcoming our newest Commissioner, Tyler Brandt!

Tyler grew up in the Wapato area at the family fruit business and served on Y.C.F.D # 5, City of Wapato, and City of Toppenish fire departments for several years as a volunteer firefighter / EMT before moving his family to the East Valley in the Spring of 2013. Tyler served at YCFD # 4 as a volunteer Firefighter / E.M.T from April of 2013 to November 2017. In September of this year the opportunity to serve the East Valley community once again presented itself, due to a vacancy on the Board of Fire Commissioners, and he was appointed to the position of Fire Commissioner. Tyler is Vice President of his family's business' Proprietary Variety Management and Brandt's Fruit Trees. Tyler, along with his wife and three sons, reside just outside the city of Moxee. We are happy to have Tyler as a part of our Department and look forward to working with him in the years to come!

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Yakima County Fire District #4 is always 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 our new Firefighters. We educate our personnel in the roles of Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services, and other specialized low risk support opportunities. The fire service is a very rewarding occupation, whether you are looking at making it a career or looking to help your local community as a volunteer. For more information please stop or give us a call and we will be more than happy to answer any questions you have!



Applications can be picked up at our main EVFD Station, located at 2003 Beaudry Rd., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

### We appreciate all of the support from the East Valley community!

Your Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank our East Valley community for your continued support!

Without you, none of this would be possible!



Chairman Ben St. Mary



Vice-Chairman Les Riel



Commissioner Tyler Brandt

We would like to welcome Kevin Durand to the East Valley Fire Department! Kevin came to us from Grant County Fire District 3 where he was a career Firefighter/EMT. Kevin is originally from Carnation, WA where he graduated from Cedarcrest High School and was a member of Duvall Fire District 45's Cadet/Explorer program. After graduating high school, Kevin's parents moved to Moxee, which presented an opportunity to volunteer with the East Valley Fire Department and work on making a career in the fire service a reality. Kevin is currently working on completing his AS in Fire Science with expected completion by January of 2024.







We also would like to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Morgan Frost! Morgan has been a resident of Yakima for most of her life and graduated from Eisenhower High School in 2014. Morgan received a full athletic scholarship after high school to attend Green River College in Auburn, WA where she worked towards getting an AA in Business Management. Morgan now spends her time focusing on her family, and enjoys doing anything that involves the outdoors. Morgan has been a great addition to our Department and is dedicated to doing what she can to help out. Welcome Morgan!

## **Fall and Winter Safety**

### Safety in and around the home

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys. Have them serviced by a qualified person.
- Nearly half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. That way in a time of need, firefighters will be able to find you easily.
- Don't over load outlets with extra lighting and heaters for the holidays/cold weather.
- If deep frying a turkey please be sure that it is thawed before putting is hot oil and cook it away from any combustible objects (buildings, decks, etc.)
- Ensure that you don't block any doors or windows with holiday decorations as these can be used as an exit during an emergency/fire.

- Have and practice your home escape plan frequently especially with very young children.
- Keep holiday plants and trees well watered as they can easily ignite and cause rapid fire spread.
- When cleaning out a fireplace please wait until the ashes are completely cool <u>and</u> use a metal bucket to store them in.



#### **Driving Safety**

- Just because the road looks clear and dry does not mean that it is ... be aware of "Black Ice".
- When warming up your car do it in a well ventilated area as cars produce CO emissions which are poisonous and can kill.
- Leave 1 extra travel space between you and the car in front of you as the snow/ice require much more stopping distance.

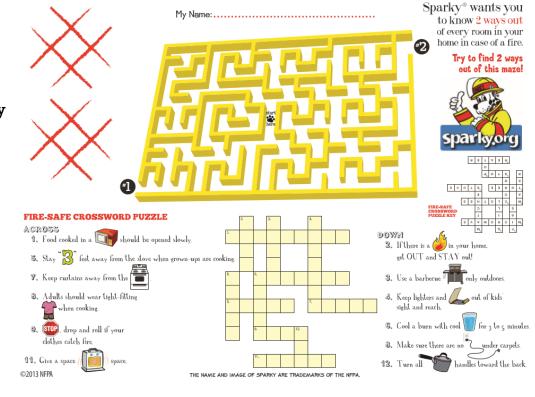
For more information on seasonal safety: www. Nfpa.org/Publiceducation

## Kid's Corner

For more kids activities and educational information please visit:

www.sparky.org

You can also stop on by Station 40 or give us a call and we will be happy to help!







### From the Desk of the Fire Chief

With the end of another year rapidly approaching, it is customary to take a look back so we can reflect and learn from the history of the year, as well as look forward to with enthusiasm and anticipation.

Recently, there have been numerous news stories about the potential of the East Valley Fire Department (EVFD) joining with the City of Yakima Fire Department (YFD) in a more permanent way than the standing mutual aid agreement we hold with them now. I would like to reassure the people of the East Valley that although we value the relationship we hold with the YFD, at this time we have no intent of joining with them permanently by forming a Rural Fire Authority or annexing them into the EVFD. The longstanding partnership we have with our neighbors, including the YFD, is one that allows us to assist each other as needed when called. The EVFD has assisted other agencies over 25 times this past year for various agencies and multiple call types. In return, the EVFD has received aid from our neighbors four times this past year when we needed help the most. We are strong and efficient, and value our mutual aid partners when we need them.

There has also been talk in the media of the City of Yakima annexing a portion of Terrace Heights which is in their growth management area. The City of Yakima has authorized a study to see if annexation would be advantageous, cost effective and a benefit for them. There is much to an annexation of this type, and it is still in the study phase. We are monitoring this, but at this time, there is no firm information on annexation to share.

The East Valley Fire Department is proud of the service we offer our people. Our dedicated and highly trained firefighters, both career and volunteer, are dedicated to a very high level of quality service. We currently have staffing of five career firefighters on 24-7/365 basis. Two career firefighters out of Station 42 (Terrace Heights) and three out of Station 40 (Moxee). It is very common to have the third position at station 42 filled with a qualified volunteer, as well as additional volunteer staffing at both stations as they are available. We are hoping to hire three more career firefighters in the near future to insure staffing at both stations of three firefighters at all times. This follows the strategic plan that assists in guiding the Fire District, and is paramount in your safety, our firefighter's safety, and meeting national response guidelines. We also continue to recruit and train volunteer firefighters to augment our staffing as they are an integral part of our response plan.

The EVFD plans on starting the first phase of building a training facility for our firefighters in 2024 on ground we own behind Station 40 on Beaudry Rd. This will allow all of our personnel to train in a multitude of skills, have live-fire training locally, as well as offer the facility to our neighboring Fire Districts for firefighter training and skills testing. This has been a vision of the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOC) for quite some time, and capital improvement money has been earmarked for this project for years. Watch for more news to come on this project!

In 2024, the levy lid lift, which was approved by the voters of the Fire District in 2019, will expire. This ballot measure allows the EVFD to collect above the 1% statutory increase allowed by WA State Legislation. The 1% budget increase annually does not keep up with inflation costs of the goods and services which we use to keep service to our customers at the level you have come to expect, and you deserve. The Board Of Commissioners are anticipating running a ballot measure in the Fall of 2024 to increase the levy amount above the statutory limit to help us continue the service level we offer. We look forward to support from our East Valley community to help keep us strong and ready for the challenges we face.

Thank you for your trust, confidence and support!

Dale E. Hille

East Valley Fire Chief

