



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

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We Are You

We can't do this job alone



Find us on Facebook



www.sparky.org

Testing the Siren

If you are somewhat new to Kalama, you may not know that Cowlitz County Fire District #5 has a siren mounted on a pole on Frontage Rd.

That siren has been a part of the District for many years. In fact, it was in use back in the days when the volunteers had "fire phones" in their homes. When there was an emergency, the first volunteer to the station would activate the siren or "sound the alarm" for other volunteers to come help.

As time went on, technology advanced and the alarm was sounded remotely when the 911 system was activated.

Then, volunteers also got notification on their pagers.

Now, we no longer use the siren to notify volunteers because they receive pager notifications and special apps on their phones give them details they need to respond to emergencies.

The siren remains functional and can be used to alert the community in the event of a large scale emergency. In the event of a true emergency, upon hearing the siren, we would ask that you Do NOT call 911. You can go to our Facebook page for information or sign up for alerts with Cowlitz County Department of

Kalama Postal Patron

PRRHT STD
EORWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

December 10, 2018



Regular Board Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Blood pressure checks are FREE!

COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

Newsletter

Emergency Management. Also, if you try to call our office, we may be unavailable in the event of a large scale emergency.

We will be conducting a TEST of the siren on December 24th at the start of the Santa Cruise event.

Do not be alarmed and please do not call 911.

We will put out reminders on our website and Face Book page.

www.cowlitzfd5.org



Your Deputy Chief

Feeling the crisp fresh air and watching the Columbia River flow past the Port of Kalama as I engage in a conversation with a new friend, reminds me why I relocated my family across the Country. The family friendly environment and the natural beauty of this area are two reasons to have moved here. Accepting the position as the Deputy Chief for Cowlitz County Fire District 5 is the third. It is a great opportunity to be a part of a fire district that has such a wide range of working environments.

I came from Pembroke Pines, Florida, located between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, where I held every position up to Battalion Chief for the past 17 years. Prior to that I worked in Auburn, Washington as a Firefighter for six years, before I moved to Florida to be closer to my wife's family.

I did enjoy working and living in South Florida. It provided me an outstanding work experience. Most importantly, my wife, Jessica, and I began raising our two boys, Mason and Marshall, in Florida. However, while raising our sons, in my humble opinion two of the best kids ever, we decided that this area provides an even better environment for our family.

This past August, I started with Cowlitz County Fire District 5 as the Deputy Chief and I am working hard to learn all about the fire district. I am learning about the personnel and resources within the district as well as about the community in which we serve, Kalama and the adjacent unincorporated areas. It is a new and exciting challenge to no longer work for a city or municipal fire department but for a fire district.

Cowlitz County Fire District 5 is a junior taxing district of the state, governed by 3 elected Fire Commissioners. We cover a large area that encompasses many different types of working environments. Our coverage area is 66.5 square miles and it includes industrial, commercial, residential, wildland urban interface, wildland, and marine components. We serve a population in the unincorporated areas of 4,403 people with another 2,620 in the City of Kalama for a total of 7,023 people not including those who travel here for work or recreation.

I continue to meet and develop relationships with many of you, while learning more about Fire District 5, this area, and its history. I am excited about forwarding the priorities of Cowlitz County Fire District 5 to secure new facilities, increase our staffing, and improve our apparatus. I believe this is a position where my passion for this industry will grow as my role expands and I look forward to providing the highest level of service possible.

- Sammy Brown, Deputy Chief, FF/PM



Calendar of Events

- December 24 - Siren Test & Santa Cruise

Santa Cruise

Do you hear what I hear? A siren wailing in the night on Christmas Eve. It's getting closer and oh look! Santa Clause is riding on the Fire Engine! This is the 69th year that our members and volunteers will help Santa visit Kalama neighborhoods on Christmas Eve.

Gather your friends and family to meet Santa and his firefighter friends on Christmas Eve. Create a "Santa Stop" by asking your neighbors to wait with you in one area of your neighborhood. Santa and his helpers will stop and visit with those who wish to wait for them.

We encourage everyone to wear brightly colored clothing so you can be easily seen by the drivers. Be Safe, Be Seen!



Look & listen for them to be in these areas on Christmas Eve:

(Weather permitting)

- **North Route** - Nectarine, N. Meeker Dr., Kalama River Rd., Laverne Dr., Bates Rd., Modrow Rd. & Spencer Creek Rd.
- **Town Area** - Elm, N. 4th, Geranium, Taylor, Horizon, Waters Watch, N. 5th, Ivy, N. 2nd Pl., Juniper, N. 2nd St., Holly, N. 3rd St., Elm, China Garden, Date St., S. 7th, S. 8th, S. 9th, S. 10th, S. 11th, Military, Douglas, S. 3rd Pl., Birch, Summit, Parkland, Cloverdale, Ashland Lp., Ashland St., S. 1st, & S. 2nd
- **South Route** - China Garden Rd. from 10th to Quietwood, Simmons, Star, Gore, Cloverdale Rd. from Greystone to upper Green Mtn. Rd., J.E. Johnson, Johnson Spur, S. Cloverdale to Dave's View, Vincent, 6100 block Old Pacific Hwy to Robb Rd., Kilkelly, Todd, Ring, Confer, Hahn, Acredale area, Sauer & Jaeger

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Safe, Happy New Year!

We will be testing our Emergency Siren to signal the start of Santa Cruise on December 24th.

Please do not call 911 to ask why the siren has gone off.

Canned Food Drive during Santa Cruise



December 24, 2018 during our annual Santa Cruise event, we will hold a **Canned Food Drive**. When you come out to see Santa riding our fire engine, you can donate canned food to be given to those in need in our community.

Donations of food, clothing and money are always needed and accepted at:

Kalama Helping Hand, 191 Cloverdale Rd

Emergency Evacuation Planning

The devastating wildfires in California and recent earthquake in Alaska are a powerful reminders of how important it is to have clear and effective emergency plans in place for you and your family.

In case of a house fire - You should have a home fire escape plan with a safe meeting place outside that your household members will meet at to wait for the Firefighters.

In case of a wildfire - You should have an evacuation plan that details where you and your family will go if you have to evacuate your neighborhood or even your town.

Evacuations can trigger many emotions. You or your loved ones could be fearful or even angry that something is causing you to flee your home. Arm yourself with knowledge. Have a plan in place for you and your family in the event that you need evacuate.

These are a few things to consider in your evacuation plans:

- How will you receive emergency alerts and warnings? Have a battery powered radio and extra batteries. An ordinary or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio will do. Radio waves travel farther than LTE but at a slower speed. Sign up for emergency alerts and community notifications on your home phone and cell phone through Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management @ <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DEM>
- Where will we shelter? Think of friends or family that can shelter you away from the emergency. Download the **FEMA App** to have access to a list of open shelters in your area during a disaster.
- If you have pets, check with hotels along your evacuation route to ensure they'll accept you with animals.
- If you have large animals, think about

how you would get them to safety. Contact the Humane Society to see what resources, if any, are available in an emergency.

- How will we get to a safe place? Keeping a full tank of fuel in your vehicle is vital. Some emergencies may have local fuel supplies inoperable, inaccessible or empty. Consider filling spare fuel cans in advance.
- Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- If you do not have a vehicle, make arrangements with neighbors or family and friends to leave if needed.
- Make sure you have enough cash on hand for essentials. Banks may be closed and if power is down your credit cards and debit cards will not be able to be used.
- How will you communicate to let others know you are okay? Make a paper copy of contact information for those in your family and other important contacts such as teachers, service providers or others you may need. Make copies and keep one in all purses, wallets and school backpacks.
- Secure your home by closing and locking all the doors and windows.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you can be contacted.

Plan for different types of emergencies and be sure to practice your plans! Even the best plans are useless if you don't practice them and make sure everyone in your household understands them.



Checkout the website www.ready.gov for tips and useful planning information for any emergency.