



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

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We Are You

We can't do this job alone



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April 2015



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

Newsletter

Kress Lake Safety Day

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Join Fire District #5 and our Fire & Life Safety Friends at Kress Lake on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

There will be fun and interactive safety displays for the whole family!

Enjoy a walk around Kress Lake with multiple stops at Safety Stations to learn and practice your knowledge about various safety topics. Parents / caregivers are encouraged to participate with the children.

After your quest for safety knowledge, children ages 4 - 14 will get a chance to fish in a special netted-off section of the lake that will be freshly stocked with Rainbow Trout!

There will be snacks and refreshments available for the kids provided by the AMALAKS.

Children **MUST** complete the safety checklist supplied at the registration desk, **BEFORE** they can fish.

Please do NOT bring your own fishing equipment. We supply the fishing rods and bait. We will even have experienced fishermen waiting to help the children fish!

Check in starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m.

Watch the weather! Be prepared with sunblock or umbrellas :-)



It is about 1 mile around the lake so wear appropriate shoes for walking.

Kress Lake is located off I-5, Exit 32. Just 2 miles North of Kalama.

Be Prepared For Fun!

From the Chief

The majority of us are touched by technology in some form every day. Most notably are the "smart" devices we, or ones we know carry. These devices can stream video, take, send or store photographs, allow for phone conversations and of course, allow access to the World Wide Web. It is easy to know how close the World Wide Web can be, yet we don't usually realize how close we are to the world and world economies.

Our community supports business and industry that produce or ship products globally. From lumber, to food and specialty chemicals, to grain. Our port, the Port of Kalama, consistently places in the top four gross tonnage exporting ports on the West Coast. So what does global economics have to do with our little fire department one would ask? Resiliency, continuity of operations, economic recovery and stability would be the answer.

Not only do we plan and coordinate services to and for the citizens in our jurisdiction, we must plan for the future and coordinate all services for all that we serve. Part of that planning is technology and "smart" devices are part of that technology. Over the past seven months, your Fire District has deployed smart tablets on apparatus. This technology assists with a more accurate and timely record when treating medical patients and access to treatment resources previously inaccessible during treatment. As well, apps allow for increased responder notification, better deployment

of apparatus, better coordination and tracking of resources during an event.

A second component to technology is communications. The majority of our communications is via radios. Be it portable radios that responders carry, or mobile radios in the vehicles, radios are one of the vital tools used in providing service. In 2014, our agency was successful in obtaining a Port Security Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Awarded funding is providing for engineering, design, equipment acquisition, installation, testing and final deployment of a new 6.25 KHz VHF narrow band NXDN digital radio system. Though our agency is the awardee and funding agent for the grant, the scope is for the resiliency, continuity of operations, economic recovery and stability for the Mid-Columbia River Ports, emergency services and other vital infrastructure. Our agency is working with the Port of Kalama, Port of Woodland, Woodland School District, Pacific Power & Light, Cowlitz County Fire District #1 & Cowlitz County Fire District #7 to name a few on this project.

As technology continues to be part of our everyday lives, we continue to encompass that technology to assist with our service delivery. A service delivery optimizing assets from the World Wide Web allowing for our communities stable, consistent outreach to the world and world economies.

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

Calendar of Events

- May 23, 2015 - Kress Lake Safety Day
- July 10 - 12, 2015, Kalama's 125 Birthday Celebration
- July 16 - 18, 2015 - Kalama Community Fair
- July 18, 2015 - Fireman's Pancake Breakfast at Station 51

**CPR Classes
Available
Call for details**

Water Level Gauge Coming to the Kalama River

The Kalama River is the only river in Cowlitz County that does not have a water level measuring and reporting device.

That's about to change thanks to the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management. Director Ernie Schnabler has ordered and received the device.

When the weather gets nicer and the tide is low enough, we will assist in the installation of the device. You will be able to monitor the Kalama River from the Department of Emergency Management's website just



like you currently can for the Columbia River, Cowlitz River and Lewis River in several locations throughout the county. Visit their website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/dem and click on "River Conditions".

The exact placement location and installation date is yet to be determined.

The 2015 Seasonal Burn Ban will be in effect from July 15 through September 30

Welcome a New Volunteer



Matthew Kmetz
Volunteer Firefighter
Started January 2015

Dialing 911

Parents! Talk with your kids about when to dial 911. Make sure your children know their address and phone number. We teach them to dial 911 in an emergency, but they need to know where they are so help can find them. Don't assume the 911 Dispatchers know where you are calling from, especially if you are calling from a cell phone. Calling 911 from a landline makes it easier for dispatchers to pinpoint your location.

Kalama Volunteer Firefighters Association

The Kalama Volunteer Firefighters Association was able to donate over \$3,000 in in our community last year! Some of the local causes we were able to support were: Kalama Community Learn to Swim, Envision Kalama, FOLK (Friends of the Library Kalama), Kalama Elementary School, Cowlitz County Chaplaincy, Kalama Youth Soccer and the Kalama Community Fair Board.

Doing good deeds just comes naturally for our team of dedicated volunteers. Despite busy work schedules, family plans and various social commitments, our volunteers find the time to give back to their community.

Fire Academy

On March 21, 2015 nine volunteers completed their final requirement in the joint effort training and Fire Academy by Cowlitz County Fire Districts 1 & 5. Ten Cadets began this training and nine finished. They each attended 30 classes that began on January 8, 2015. Their combined total of 1,531 Cadet training hours included:

- History of the fire service
- Radio Communications
- Search and Rescue
- Water Supply
- Fire Streams
- Fire Hose
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Building Construction
- Fire Behavior
- Extinguishers
- Ladders
- Ventilation
- Power & Hand Tools
- Ropes and Knots

The last prerequisite of a live-burn for these students, was an exercise held in Astoria, Oregon, at the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS), Fire Response Research Center which is part of Clatsop Community College. These Cadets spent a whole day performing all the concepts and procedures they had learned about over the last 12 weeks. The highlights of the day included; Forcible Entry and Ventilation exercises, practicing 'MAYDAY' procedures, utilizing many different tools as well as the Incident Command System (ICS). Along with lots of fire attack and teamwork, the day was ultimately a complete success.

The Commencement Ceremony for Cadet Class 15-01 was held at Cowlitz County Fire Dist. #5, Station 52. Family, friends and Firefighters from both Districts attend-

ed to support these Cadets and welcome them aboard to the rank of Volunteer Firefighter.

Cowlitz Co. Fire Dist #5

Melissa Baker - Firefighter/EMT
Matt Kmetz - Firefighter
Shayne Mazza - Firefighter
Mitchell VanSike - Firefighter
Josh Vogel - Firefighter

Cowlitz Co. Fire Dist #1

Edward Aldrete - Firefighter
Kyle Blankenship - Firefighter
Michael Garrison - Firefighter
Zachary Seevers - Firefighter

Congratulations to all of you for your dedication and drive to learn new things and serve your community!



Cadets and helpers at MERTS in Astoria, OR



Roof ventilation practice

What if Volunteer Firefighters Didn't Volunteer?
We Can't Do This Job Alone.

Call us to learn about becoming a volunteer 673-2222.

Must be 18 or older (or enrolled in Fire Science) and live within the District #5 response area.