



FALL/WINTER
2020

SCFD8 PROUDLY SERVES

- Moran Prairie
- Glenrose
- Hangman Hills
- Valleyford
- Bella Vista
- Mica
- Painted Hills
- Ponderosa
- Saltese



www.scf8.org
509-926-6699



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

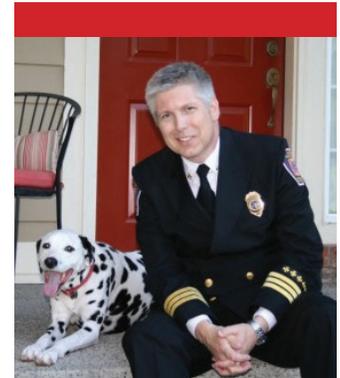
Hello Friends! With winter rapidly approaching, our crews have shifted their training and responses from wildfires to cold weather emergencies and chimney fires, but one thing has unfortunately remained constant: COVID-19.

As of this writing, our firefighters and paramedics have cared for over 180 suspected COVID-19 patients and our call volume has increased 10% over last year. As first responders, our crews selflessly put themselves in harm's way to confront whatever emergency arises, and COVID-19 has risen to become their newest challenge. I am incredibly proud of our members, as they have accepted this challenge by taking all recommended training and precautions to care for COVID-19 patients while protecting themselves and others.

Financially, the District is stable, but we are closely monitoring for potential revenue decreases, as economic factors have created hardship for some of our friends and neighbors. We have continued our freeze on non-critical capital projects to ensure we remain fiscally sustainable going into 2021 and are tracking pandemic-related expenses for federal, state, and local reimbursement as allowed.

On another note, this will be my final Chief's Message to you, as I will be retiring this December 31st. I've enjoyed a long, rewarding career and am incredibly grateful to our Board of Fire Commissioners and dedicated members. Guided by our mission to Protect, Serve, and Educate, we have accomplished great things. I'm very pleased to share that Assistant Chief Lonnie Rash — a superb fire service leader with an extensive history of success at District 8 and other departments across the Northwest — will assume the role of Fire Chief on January 1st.

Thanks to your support, the District is well-positioned for the future and will continue to be a leader in providing excellent fire and medical services in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. We appreciate your patience while we've had to limit our outreach activities and public events during this pandemic. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions about how we can serve you better, please feel free to e-mail me at tnielsen@scfd8.org, or give me a call either at the office (509) 926-6699 or at home (509) 370-9801.



Tony C. Nielsen, MA, EFO, CFO,
Fire Chief, SCFD8

Yes, We are Still Open — Virtually.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety measures we've all learned to live with — it might seem like the only time we interact with you now is during an emergency. Station 81 A-Shift Captain Wood says he can't wait for the day we'll open the doors and allow the public back into the fire stations. He misses interacting with our neighbors and allowing kids to climb in the fire engine.

While holding special events, attending HOA meetings, and conducting stations tours may not be possible for the moment — we are open, available and ready to help. If you need to talk to someone at your local fire station when you stop by you'll find a sign on the front door stating how to reach the on-duty crew. Our stations are located at:

- STATION 81 | 6117 S Palouse Highway | Spokane, WA
- STATION 82 | 12100 E Palouse Highway | Valleyford, WA
- STATION 84 | 4410 S Bates | Spokane Valley, WA
- STATION 85 | 3324 S Linke Rd | Greenacres, WA

Keep in mind we are strictly following CDC guidelines and State Department of Health protocols. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Let us know how we can help. If you have non-emergency routine business and need to contact fire district administration, please call (509) 926-6699, Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm. Or contact us via email at admin@scfd8.org, or check out our website, scfd8.org, for more information.

As always, we look forward to serving you.





SERVE UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN

According to a recent report from the National Fire Safety Association, approximately 173,000 cooking fires occur in homes each year, resulting in 550 civilian deaths, 4,820 reported civilian fire injuries, and more than \$1 billion in direct property damage.

Here are tips about cooking safely!

- Never leave the kitchen unattended when frying, grilling or broiling food.
- When cooking “low and slow” — simmering, baking, roasting, etc. — use a timer and remember to check the stove regularly.

- Always turn the oven and burners off when finished cooking.
- Stay alert and avoid cooking when under the influence of medications or alcohol.
- Prevent burns and stove top fires by turning pot handles toward the back of the stove and use the rear burners when children are in the kitchen.
- Keep all cooking appliances clean and free of spills and grease that may catch fire.
- Keep all combustibles including oven mitts, wooden utensils, food

packaging, towels, pot holders and curtains away from hot surfaces.

- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many kitchen appliances and ensure electrical cords are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Be sure to test smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Keep a class ABC general-purpose fire extinguisher in the kitchen or pantry for emergency use, and inspect it monthly according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

To learn more, go to nfa.org and search for “Fire Safety in the Kitchen”.

Fire Flyer

Fire 8 Flyer is a publication of Spokane County Fire District 8

12100 E Palouse Highway | PO Box 345
Valleyford WA 99036

Tony C. Nielsen, Fire Chief
Lee C. Boling, Commissioner
Greg Hesse, Commissioner
Andy Rorie, Commissioner

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE, WA
PERMIT #4

Would you like to receive the Fire 8 Flyer and other correspondence via email?

Send your name and email address to admin@scfd8.org to join our mailing list.

KEEP YOUR HYDRANT CLEAR THIS WINTER



Keep snow and ice 3 feet away from fire hydrants.

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.

U.S. Fire Administration



FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY

It is with great disappointment that we must tell you we will not be having our annual Santa in the neighborhood event this year. This holiday tradition is a highlight of our public events. Our crews have enjoyed the last 20 years walking through the streets of the district, passing out candy canes, and greeting the families and children who live in the areas we serve. We will miss the Christmas music and coming into your homes to take photos with your family and friends.

This event requires many of our off-duty staff, plus our very official and real Santa to walk throughout the neighborhoods meeting and greeting kids and families. Often this creates large gatherings and would violate WA State Safe Start protocols. We are here for you and wish you and your family a happy holiday and a wonderful New Year. Stay safe and healthy