



**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](http://www.sparky.org)

## Is Your Home Properly Addressed?

After you dial 911, minutes can feel like hours while you are waiting for the emergency responders to arrive. We do our very best to get to the scene of the emergency as quickly and as safely as possible.

If we can't find you quickly, critical help can be delayed.

Make sure your home can be easily found by emergency crews. Don't rely on sending someone out to the street to "flag down" help.

Here are some tips to make sure your home can be found easily in the event of an emergency.

- Use reflective numbers on a dark or colored background. A blue, red or green sign with white reflective numbers stands out best.
- Make sure you place an address sign at the end of your driveway AND place address numbers near your front entrance.
- Long shared driveways with multiple homes should have address signs at each branch in the road so we can follow the route to your home.
- Address rocks are nice, but they need to be large enough to be seen from the street even in dark, rainy conditions.
- Don't assume the responders know where you live!



Although technology is great and GPS maps are helpful, well placed home address signs are our best resource to find you quickly.

PRSRHT STD  
EORWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Kalama Postal Patron

December 18, 2015



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

# Newsletter

## Captains Comments Captain/Training Officer Dan Ulrich

As the weather changes and we start into our winter season, here is some safety information we would like to pass along to keep our citizens safe.

**Know Your Risk** - Check weather reports daily before you leave your home.

**Take Action** - Prepare for an emergency

- Have a communications plan for all family members
- Keep emergency supply kits in your vehicles (Food, water, blankets, etc.)
- Allow extra travel time depending on weather conditions

### Winter weather Hazards

**Snow & Ice** - Remember that it does not take much snow or ice to cause big problems

- Winter driving safety tips: <http://safercar.gov/WinterDrivingTips>

**Cold Temperatures** - Dress for the season. Wear loose, warm clothing in layers. Protect head, hands, face and mouth to keep your lungs safe from very cold air.

**Flooding - Turn Around, Don't Drown!** Never drive into floodwaters.

**Wind** - High winds can occur in winter storms, severe weather systems or can flow down a mountainside.

- Keep clear of high profile vehicles, such as semi-trucks and RV's while driving during high winds.

**Fog** - Slow down. Give yourself more time to react to obstacles in the roadway. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you. Consider delaying your travel plans if necessary.

**Highway Driving** - When you see emergency vehicle lights, **SLOW DOWN** and move away from the affected lanes. Remember;

**"Move to the Right for Sirens & Lights"**

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



**Remember to keep portable heaters at least 3 feet away from materials and furniture.**

### Calendar of Events

- December 24 - Santa Cruise & canned food drive

**CPR Classes Available**  
Call for details

## 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 66th 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. 4<sup>th</sup>, Geranium, Taylor, Horizon, Waters Watch, N. 5<sup>th</sup>, Ivy, N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pl., Juniper, N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Holly, N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Elm, China Garden, Date St., S. 7<sup>th</sup>, S. 8<sup>th</sup>, S. 9<sup>th</sup>, S. 10<sup>th</sup>, S. 11<sup>th</sup>, Military, Douglas, S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Pl., Birch, Summit, Parkland, Cloverdale, Ashland Lp., Ashland St., S. 1<sup>st</sup>, & S. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **South Route** - China Garden Rd. from 10<sup>th</sup> 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!**

## Canned Food Drive during Santa Cruise



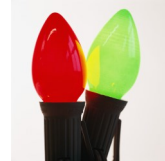
**December 24, 2015** during our annual Santa Cruise event, we will hold a **Canned Food Drive**. When you come out to see Santa riding our fire engine, you can donate canned food to be donated to those in need in the community.

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

**Kalama Helping Hand, 191 Cloverdale Rd**

## Decoration Hazards

- \* Artificial trees are made from PVC which can contain lead. Wash your hands after handling the tree and lights
- \* Don't overload electrical outlets
- \* Children and pets can mistake decorations for food. Watch them closely



- \* Keep your cut-trees well watered
- \* Don't block exits with seasonal decorations. You may need those exits in case of fire
- \* Unplug lights when going to bed or leaving your home.
- \* Never leave burning candles unattended
- \* Look for the UL symbol on electrical decorations to ensure they have been safety tested

## Winter Safety

The official start of the Winter season is December 21, 2015. Are you ready for what's ahead? Here are some safety reminders for the season:

- Keep some de-icer on hand to keep your sidewalks and stairs clear of ice and snow
- Cover your outside faucets and unscrew the water hoses to reduce the risk of pipes freezing
- Clean your gutters to keep them from filling up and spilling over or causing water to leak into your home
- Don't store firewood against your home
- Keep a stock of batteries on hand for flashlights in case the power goes out
- Make sure vehicles are properly maintained. Check wipers, tires, fluids and keep some emergency supplies in your trunk just in case
- Check the weather strip and seals on your doors and windows to avoid losing heat and causing drafts
- Have plenty of bottled water and foods that require little preparation in case the power goes out



- Dress in layers. It's better to be too warm and remove a layer than to be cold and have no choice
- If you have a wood stove, make sure your chimney is clean. Ensure ashes removed from the stove are placed in a metal container and cooled before discarding



**Smoke Detectors Save Lives! Test yours once a month.**

## Beware the Invisible Killer

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that kills over 400 Americans each year. The Consumer Products Safety Commission says about 170 of those deaths can be attributed to non-automotive sources such as room heaters and charcoal that is burned in homes for heat.

Avoid being a victim. Follow these tips:

- Install battery operated or battery back-up, carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Change the batteries every 6 months.
- Have your gas appliances checked/serviced by a

qualified technician each year.

- Ensure portable generators are not used indoors and kept at least 20' away from the outside of the building.
- If your carbon monoxide alarm does sound, get outside immediately and call 911. Do not look for the source. Do not go back in until emergency personnel say it's safe to do so.
- Never leave a vehicle running inside an attached garage.

## Awards & Recognition

**Responder & Member of the Year**



**Victor Wakeman**

**Community Business Supporter of the Year**

**Kalama VFW Post #10435**

Thank you to all our members for another great year. From our highly trained and capable professional members, to our newest rookie volunteer. It takes dedication, hard-work and constant training to be prepared to respond to the many different types of emergencies we see. We appreciate the way you continue to serve the citizens of this community and those passing through.

We extend a special thank you to our Commissioners for their management of our District and their commitment to keeping the District progressively and successfully moving forward.