

# NEWSLETTER

## Tentatively Scheduled Calendar of Events

- December 24, Santa Cruz
- March - Gear up games at Kalama Elementary School
- March 6, Team Teaching at Kalama Elementary

If you have questions or comments please feel free to write, e-mail, call us or even come by the District office.



## Regular Board Meetings

Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Meetings are open to the public.

### Need Help Finding Help?

#### Dial 2-1-1

- Food Resources
- Health Care
- Public Agencies
- Employment Resources
- Emergency Shelter
- And More!

## “TIS THE SEASON...”

CHIEF VIC LEATZOW

...to be cautious. It is again the time of year where we see an increase in property damage. Though the holiday season is a time to reflect and be thankful, we also must be mindful. Safety should be on the “to do” list next to the turkey and tree.

**Candles:** A candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 34 minutes.

Use sturdy, safe candleholders.

Protect candle flames with glass chimneys or containers.

Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.

NEVER leave a burning candle unattended.

Keep children and pets away from burning candles.

**Cooking:** Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries.

Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking food.

Keep the stovetop, burners and oven clean.

Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Check electrical cords for cracks, breaks, or damage.

**Electrical:** U.S. fire departments responded to 20,900 incidents involving electrical equipment in 2005.

Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on electrical devices.

Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.

Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.

Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Know your circuit capacity and DO NOT overload it.

**Tree:** In 2005, almost half, (48%) of home Christmas tree fires were caused by some type of electrical failure.

Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily.

Keep trees at least three feet away from any heat source.

Safely dispose of trees when they begin dropping needles.

Only use UL listed indoor or indoor/outdoor lights on trees.

Always unplug tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Following these easy, sensible, no expense recommendations will allow you, your family and friends to have an enjoyable safe holiday season.

**Everyone at Cowlitz County Fire District #5 would like to wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays.**

## SANTA CRUZ



The tradition continues! Santa will be making his rounds on the Fire truck again this year as he has been for the past 59 years! Look & listen for him to be in these areas on Christmas Eve:

- 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 Grey-stone 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

As our community continues to grow it gets increasingly difficult to stop at each house. Talk with your neighbors and pick a "Santa Stop". Choose an intersection on one of the routes and gather there with your family, friends and neighbors to greet Santa and his Firefighter Friends!



### Station 52 is no longer available for private use.

Yes, it was a great place to have that special gathering but due to the occasional abuse of the facilities, our Commissioners have said no more meeting room rentals at Station 52.



## JOIN THE TEAM

Brian Mack FF/EMT -IV, Captain



There may be some misconception as to who we are and what we do here at CCFD #5. First of all, we are what is called a "combination" department, which means that we have career firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Most of us are at least EMT basic level, along with a few IV technicians, and three paramedics. Over 70% of our emergency calls are medical or trauma, so that's the reason our crews have the emergency medical certifications.

There are six career personnel, and only twenty six volunteer firefighters.

Volunteer firefighters have the same training and education opportunities as the career folks, in some cases more, but they also have jobs to go to everyday. We here at Fire District #5 are now experiencing the lowest volunteer staffing levels ever. We need you!

Do you miss the good old days when you played on (fill in your team)? Do you miss the camaraderie of your teammates? Do you miss playing on a winning team? We here at CCFD #5 can help you. This is the place where teamwork and winning is what we're all about. Don't like the Emergency Medical Response thing? No problem. Firefighting could be your niche. The point is, the Fire District has many diverse opportunities. Why not come on down to the station and talk to us about how you can be a volunteer firefighter/ EMT. You may discover that you'll get more out of this experience than you put in.

## WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM WHEN THERE'S A FIRE?



We all know that it takes a lot of water to put out a large fire. There are three primary sources that we get our water from. Those sources are fire engines, water tenders and fire hydrants.

Fire engines are typically used for the “initial attack” at a fire. They normally hold about 750 gallons of water which is usually enough to extinguish a small to medium fire in a structure. That supply is limited. If we have a larger fire, we need to get more water from somewhere else.

Another place we can get a supply of water is from a water tender. We have two water tenders in our district. They are basically rolling water supplies that hold 3000 gallons each. They are most useful when a hydrant is unavailable or unusable. One drawback is that a tender is very large and is difficult to maneuver in tight spaces. They are also very heavy and need solid ground to be driven on.

That brings us to fire hydrants. Since the Fire District is responsible for fire engines and water tenders, I thought I would spend some extra time on hydrants and how the public can affect them. Everyone knows what they look like and I am sure you have seen them all around Kalama. Most of us take them for granted and don't realize that some of the things we do can affect the Fire District's ability to successfully extinguish a fire. Below are some of the common errors people make that can hinder our firefighting efforts.

**Parking in front of a hydrant:** If you park your car in front of a hydrant, the responding fire engine may not be able to connect to it and your house could burn down because they ran out of water. It is also possible to just drive by a hydrant because it is obstructed by your car. ***Don't park in front of a fire hydrant!***

**Hydrants obstructed by foliage or fences:** We can't establish a water supply to our fire engine if we don't know it's there. If a hydrant is on or near your property, you have a responsibility to make sure it can be seen from the road. ***Keep the hydrants in your area clear of obstructions!***

**Painted hydrants:** Some people don't like the bright colors of the hydrants near their property. Some have even painted them colors that make them blend in to their surroundings. One of the reasons they are bright colors is to make sure we can see them when we respond. Some hydrants are painted with reflective paint so they may be more easily seen at night. If we don't see it, we won't be able to use it. ***Don't paint fire hydrants!***

**Decorative hydrants:** This should be a no-brainer! If you have an inoperable hydrant in your yard, it is of no use to us. ***Please identify such hydrants as inoperable so we don't try to get water out of them!***

Did you know that most all fire hydrants belong to the Water Department? They are responsible for installation, maintenance and repairs. There are some privately owned hydrants that do not fall under their jurisdiction. If you have any problems with a hydrant in your area, please contact the Water Department for assistance.

Remember, water is the single most important element needed to sustain life. It is also one of the most important elements needed to save life!

Thank you for your time,  
Commissioner David Wyman





Cowlitz County Fire District #5

P.O. Box 280  
382 NE Frontage Rd.  
Kalama, WA 98625

Phone: 360-673-2222  
Fax: 360-673-3389  
Email: ccf5@kalama.com

We're on the web!  
[www.CowlitzFD5.org](http://www.CowlitzFD5.org)

- Open burning regulations are established by Washington state law and enforced by the Southwest Clean Air Agency in southwest Washington.
  - Cowlitz County has a FREE burn permit for general burning outside the no-burn areas. The permit is available at our main Station and on our website at [www.cowlitzfd5.org](http://www.cowlitzfd5.org)
  - You are required to have this permit with you when you burn. Once you get your permit, it is good for one year! (During open burn periods)
- Remember to call us and let us know when you'll be burning. 673-2222*

## LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN



## FUN FOR EVERYONE

JAN FLEMING FF

L F I R E E X T I N G U I S H E R  
 A W P G P A X E S M V X C S R R N  
 D S E A H I J L H S B X M B O E B  
 D D F B H R P V V N C O H B Y A C  
 E G H F G P I N N F K Z C S G O Z  
 R F B G N A O K U E C L J C Y P S  
 S D J B O C M J A V M Z F C U O K  
 V I U I R K T L A K B J V U Y I C  
 S O D A B S A H Y H E L M E T T U  
 T A L V Y R M S V T S F S O T Q R  
 R K L Z M C V F O P T X V J R Q T  
 V Y K S X H F A T L Y M J O E W E  
 D O J M N F L A S H L I G H T O R  
 A C K V B R E T Y P K W J H H O I  
 F I R E H O S E Y K V S V A L P F



These are a few words associated with the Fire Department. How many can you find in the puzzle?

LADDERS    AXES    AIR PACKS    SMOKE ALARMS    FIRE HOSE  
 FIRE TRUCKS    FIRE EXTINGUISHER    HELMET    FLASHLIGHT  
 RADIO

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