

# NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

### Is it your turn?

The Kalama Fair, parade, car show, Kress lake safety day, Christmas in Kalama, All City Halloween, baseball games, soccer games, school functions, these are just a few events we enjoy in our wonderful community. How is it we have so much to do and enjoy within our community? I believe it is the tireless work of many, the Kalama Lions, AMALAK, Boy Scouts, Kalama PTO, VFW Post 10435, Kalama Little League, Kalama soccer, Kalama 4-H, Kalama Volunteer Firefighters Association, Kalama Chamber of Commerce, City of Kalama, Port of Kalama, Kalama Fair Board, as well as others that I have missed.

So what is the common denominator with this equation? **Volunteers!** The many wonderful, caring individuals within our community that dedicate themselves to keeping and improving on what we have in our community. On any given day you will pass by or chat with a community member volunteering their time from sun rise to sun set on behalf of an organization here in Kalama. Be it hanging flags, prepping playing fields, overseeing blood drives, judging parade line ups, or collecting food on a food drive, it happens here because our community cares. There are so many organizations within our community that need volunteers. If you think you don't have what they need, think again, everyone has something to give to an organization.

**Cowlitz County Fire District #5** would like to thank all of our community members who give their knowledge, equipment, money and time to our community. We would also ask those reading this that are not involved, *is it your turn?*



### Tentatively Scheduled Calendar of Events

- **May 15** - Kress Lake Safety Day 10:00 - 2:00
- **July 24** - Kalama Fair Firemen's Pancake breakfast at Station 51. 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **August 15** - Car Show Firemen's Pancake breakfast at Station 51. 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- **September 11** - Open House & Bike Rodeo at Station 51
- **Burn Ban begins July 15, and will continue through October 1.**

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. @ St. 51.

Meetings are open to the public.



Mrs. Fortner's 2nd grade class

Congratulations Mrs. Fortner's Class, on winning the Fire Prevention Week Award for the highest class participation in 2009!

We look forward to seeing all the Kalama Elementary students again this fall for Fire Prevention Week 2010, October 3 - 9.

## OUTDOOR SAFETY

Warmer weather is on the way and with it comes more opportunities for outdoor activities. Remember these tips to help keep your sunny days safe.

- **Apply sunscreen BEFORE you go in the sun.** Sunscreens need time to absorb before they are fully effective.
- **Stay hydrated!** Water is the best beverage while you enjoy your outdoor activities. If you are drinking other beverages be sure to take along water to drink in between so you don't suffer from dehydration.
- **Set good examples for children by wearing your bicycle helmets.** Not only is it safer for you but children are more likely to wear their helmets if parents wear theirs.



- **Make sure the lifejackets still fit.** The kids are growing up fast so make sure to test fit their old life jackets BEFORE that family boat ride.
- **Check the fire extinguishers in your campers, RV's and boats.** A reliable fire extinguisher is a must-have if you're planning any road trips.
- **Inspect your gas grill before using.** If you smell gas, shut the valve off at the tank. Always keep propane tanks outdoors. Remember to keep all grills a safe distance away from your home or garage.
- **Never swim or hike alone.** Take a friend along and let someone who's not going with you know where you'll be.

*Avoid strenuous outdoor activities this summer while the sun is at it's hottest point between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.*



## ANNUAL BURN BAN

July 15<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>



During this time ALL residential and land clearing burning is strictly prohibited. Complaints and reports of illegal burning during the Burn Ban can be directed to the [Southwest Clean Air Agency](#), toll free 1-800-633-0709. Visit their website for more information.

[www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org)

Recreational fires (consisting only of wood or charcoal) are allowed as long as they are in an approved fire pit, like the ones you find in campgrounds.

- The diameter of the pit cannot exceed 3 feet.
- Pit should be metal, stone or masonry lined.
- You must keep at least 10 feet around your fire pit completely clear of any combustible materials.
- Make sure to keep your fire pit at least 20 feet away from overhead fuels like branches and overhangs.
- Recreational fires must be attended by a responsible person 16 yrs old or older and they must have tools to extinguish the fire.

For Outdoor Burning please call The Southwest Clean Air Agency to verify favorable burning conditions.

1-800-633-0709

**We are Always Accepting Applications for Volunteers**

Minimum requirements include but are not limited to:

- Must live within District #5 jurisdictional boundaries
- Must be 18 or older and pass a criminal background check
  - Meet our physical fitness standards

**SPRING IS HERE, TIME TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRE SEASON**

Springtime is a great time to create a "Defensible Space" around your home. Every year, countless wildfires take lives and leave people homeless. Use these tips to help defend your home and protect your family.

- **Keep trees and shrubs pruned.** Prune all trees 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Keep your lawn mowed and watered regularly.
- **Action Plan- The time to plan for a fire emergency is now.** Plan a family fire drill & practice often.
- **Lean, Clean and Green?** Create a Defensible Space. Plant fire resistant plants that stay healthy and green throughout the year.
- **At least one 10 pound ABC-class fire extinguisher** should be available and check the smoke detectors in your home.
- **Materials that are fire-resistant** should be used on the exterior of the home. Brick, cement, plaster, stucco and fiber cement board are all heat and flame resistant materials.
- **Access for Emergency Vehicles-** identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so emergency vehicles can rapidly find the location of the emergency. Your driveway needs to be 12 feet wide and have an overhead clearance of at least 15 feet - to provide access to emergency vehicles.

*From the members of Cowlitz County Fire District 5*

For more information on creating a Defensible Space contact the Department of Natural Resources @ 577-2025

The Kalama Volunteer Firefighter's Association is a non-profit association and relies on the generosity of the community to help fund programs like Santa Cruz, sports team sponsorships, parade and community fair participation, community pancake breakfasts, the Volunteer Awards Banquet, the Volunteer physical fitness facility and numerous other community donations and sponsorships throughout the year.

If you would like to help us continue our tradition of giving please contact the District Office at 673-2222 or send your tax deductible contributions to:

**Kalama Volunteer Firefighter's Association**  
P.O. Box 293, Kalama, WA 98625



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

US Postage  
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Kalama, WA.

Kalama Postal Patron

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



## *KRESS LAKE SAFETY DAY*

**Date** - May 15, 2010

**Time** - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Place** - Kress Lake



Bring your family and join us for a fun and informational journey around Kress Lake. **Cowlitz Fire District #5** and our friends have prepared numerous safety displays and informational booths to help keep you safe & healthy throughout the years. After finishing our Safety Course, children ages 4 - 14 will have a chance to fish for Rainbow Trout in a special netted section of the lake.

- Remember to dress for a long walk - it could be muddy so wear appropriate shoes
- No personal fishing gear allowed - we have everything you need to catch a keeper!

Refreshments  
Provided by AMALAKS

Kress Lake will be closed to the public Thursday evening, May 13, through Saturday May 15, until 6:00 p.m.