

NEWSLETTER

Tentatively Scheduled Calendar of Events

- **August 15** - Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the car show 5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- **September 11** - Open House & Bicycle Rodeo 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
- **October 3 - 9** - National Fire Prevention Week



Free Blood Pressure Checks

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.

Got Fire Extinguishers?

Make sure your vehicles, campers and boats are equipped with Working Fire Extinguishers before your next trip.

Don't leave home without 'em!

OPEN HOUSE & BICYCLE AND SCOOTER SAFETY DAY & RODEO



Saturday, September 11th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Please join us for a special day. Our Open House & Bicycle Rodeo will be on the same day this year! We invite everyone young and old to join us and some of our special friends at the main station, 382 NE Frontage Rd.

Events include:

- Safety Rodeo, where kids will learn and demonstrate safe riding techniques
- Bicycle & Scooter Safety Inspections
- Safety Helmet fittings (Helmets available for \$5 donation) ***VISIT SPARKY THE FIRE DOG!***
- Free refreshments provided by the AMALAK's
- Informational Booths
- Fire Truck & Ambulance Tours
- Spray the Fire Hose
- View Slide Show of Our Activities
- Meet the Firefighters & Paramedics

Prize raffle and lots of fun!



 **Cowlitz County Mandatory Burn Ban** 
July 15 - September 30



Watch What You Heat!

Please remember to NEVER leave your Stove or Barbeque unattended while cooking. Remember to turn off appliances and properly dispose of hot coals.

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS - TABOO OR TERRIFIC?

Taboo – “an inhibition or ban resulting from social custom or emotional aversion”.

This would best describe the thought process when a home owner is asked about installation of a home sprinkler system. For as long as the District has been in business, sprinkler systems have been installed in “businesses” and not homes, why is that, Taboo?

Here is some interesting information on home sprinkler systems that hopefully will allow you to shed the taboo.

- **Installing both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system reduces the risk of death in a home fire by 82%, relative to having neither.**

Facts & Figures*

Sprinklers typically reduce chances of dying in a fire and the average property loss by one-half to two-thirds compared to where sprinklers are not present.

NFPA has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building where the system was working properly.

In 1999, 34% of public assembly properties where fires occurred in the U.S. were equipped with sprinklers, compared with 7% of residential properties.

In 2002, 79% of fires occurred in the home, resulting in 2,670 fire deaths.

Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.

Each sprinkler is individually activated by heat. Despite "sight gags" on TV sit-coms, smoke does not trigger sprinkler operation. The rest of the sprinklers in a house will not activate unless there is also a fire in that location. 90% of all home fires are contained with a single sprinkler.

- **Fire hoses, on average, use more than 8 1/2 times the water that sprinklers do to contain a fire.**

According to the Scottsdale Report, a 15-year study of fire sprinkler effectiveness, a fire sprinkler uses, on average, 341 gallons of water to control a fire. Firefighters, on average, use 2,935. Reduced water damage is a major source of savings for homeowners.

- **The likelihood that a sprinkler will accidentally discharge because of a manufacturing defect is extremely rare.**

Sprinkler mishaps are generally less likely and less severe than accidents involving home plumbing systems.

- **Modern fire sprinklers provide unobtrusive protection.**

Unlike commercial fire sprinklers, residential sprinklers are small, and can be recessed into ceilings or walls. Some models are completely concealed by plates that can be matched to room paint colors.



- **How much should people expect to pay for a fire sprinkler system?**

If installed during new home construction, home fire sprinklers often cost no more than 1 to 1 1/2 percent of the total building cost, which is about what they would pay for an upgrade in carpeting. The investment in a family's fire protection may be slightly lower or higher, depending on the location and complexity of the home.



- **How long should installation take? Can other construction work continue while the sprinklers are going in?**

Fire sprinkler installations are like electricity, plumbing or any other operational system in a home. The total time involved will depend on the size and complexity of the home.

Certain portions of the system (i.e. water piping) are more easily and cost-effectively installed in the earliest stages of construction, while the actual finish (i.e. installing the fire sprinkler devices, testing the system, etc.) will take place after the house is framed. Fire sprinkler systems are often completed prior to the other systems in a home, but other mechanical trades may work alongside the sprinkler contractor if necessary.



- **How are fire sprinkler systems maintained?**

A residential fire sprinkler system is basically maintenance free. The only testing required on a regular basis is opening the drain/test valve to check the alarm operation. The rest of the system is designed to operate properly for 20 years or more without any maintenance.

Some basic precautions to safeguard the fire sprinkler system are: Avoid painting or otherwise covering the fire sprinkler devices, as that will affect their sensitivity to heat.

Do not hang decorations, plants or other objects from the sprinkler or piping.

- **What if a home will not be connected to a public water supply?**

Homes can be protected by automatic fire sprinklers in even the most remote areas. Several manufacturers offer self-contained water tanks to supply residential fire sprinkler systems. These tanks are designed to fit in a garage or another storage area of the home, and they hold enough water to comply with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes.

- **Will homeowners insurance premiums go up?**

No. Generally insurance rates will go down because fire sprinklers will keep damage low. Shop around; the savings vary by insurance company.

Home sprinkler systems are cost effective, reduce property damage, save lives, as well as reduce resource needs. Shed the taboo, protect your family and property, look into a sprinkler system!



Cowlitz County Fire District #5

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We're on the web!
www.CowlitzFD5.org

Don't Forget about our CPR & First Aid Classes!

Call us for details and class Availability!

Become A Volunteer!



If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

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RECREATIONAL FIRE PIT STANDARDS

- Must be made from steel or non-combustible material. Decorative cutouts must be screened with 1/8" steel mesh.
- Pit size - Maximum 36" diameter, between 7 3/8" and 16" high.
- Remove all combustibles down to bare soil within 1 1/2' of the pit.
- Trim up all branches, bushes and fire fuels within 10 feet vertically and horizontally.
- Keep fire pit at least 25' away from all buildings and structures.
- Fire pit must be 50' away from all logging slash/debris
- Maintain your fire pit and keep it free of debris.

Always be safe and never leave the fire unattended.

Recreational burning does not include burning garbage!

Burning garbage has been illegal in the State of Washington since 1967.



Join us for a Pancake Breakfast before the Car Show!
[Sunday, August 15, 2010 from 5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.](#)
At Station 51, 382 NE Frontage Rd, Kalama
Sponsored by the Kalama Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association