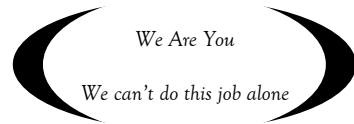




COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

382 N.E. Frontage Rd. PO Box 280 Kalama, WA 98625

Phone: 360-673-2222 Fax: 360-673-3389 website: www.cowlitzfd5.org



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Cowlitz County Fire District #5

DECEMBER 2020



Newsletter

Postal Customer

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do you rescue cats from trees?

A: No. We do not have tree climbing equipment. A great resource for cat rescue is a tree trimming expert!



A tree trimmer expert may be able to help if a cat is really stuck in a tree.

Q: If I dial 911, do they know where I am?

A: Not exactly. Landlines are easier to pin a location to than a cellphone is. Always be aware of your surroundings in case you need to tell dispatchers where to find you in an emergency.

Q: Do you refill or test fire extinguishers?

A: No. Some safety supply stores may. Any extinguishers that have a plastic valve assembly are not refillable.

Q: Why doesn't just the ambulance come to my house when I have a medical emergency?

A: Our ambulance is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a 2 person Firefighter/Paramedic and Firefighter/EMT crew.

They are more than capable of assisting you with your medical emergency but often times, those two people have multiple pieces of equipment to carry as well as carrying the patient and gurney. Our volunteer members help with your care, patient movement and the movement of equipment to and from the vehicles.

Q: How can I receive emergency community alerts?

A: Landlines (home phones) are automatically registered with Hyper-Reach through Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management to send

you emergency information. Cellphones must be "opted-in" by visiting <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/196/Emergency-Management> and clicking on the Hyper-Reach link.

Q: Is 3 days of emergency supplies for me and my family really necessary to keep on hand?

A: YES and MORE!! The newest recommendation from www.disasterreadywashington.com is to have 2 WEEKS worth of supplies ready. As well as a smaller 3 day, grab and go kit for each person and pet. Having a safety kit in the car is great pre-planning too!

Q: Do you still give out address signs?

A: Sure do! Call us and we will get one installed for you.

Blood pressure checks are FREE! Stop by our main station



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

Testing the Siren

If you are somewhat new to Kalama, you may not know that Cowlitz County Fire District #5 has a siren mounted on a pole on West Frontage Rd.

That siren has been a part of the District for many years. In fact, it was in use back in the days when the volunteers had "fire phones" in their homes. When there was an emergency, the first volunteer to the station would activate the siren or "sound the alarm" for other volunteers to come help.

As time went on, technology advanced and the alarm was sounded remotely when the 911 system was activated. Then, volunteers also got notification on their pagers.

Now, we no longer use the siren to notify volunteers because they receive pager notifications and special apps on their phones give them details they need to respond to emergencies.

The siren remains functional and can be used to alert the community in the event of a large scale emergency. In the event of a true emergency, upon hearing the siren, we would ask that you Do NOT call 911. You can go to our Facebook page for information or sign up for alerts with Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management. Also, if you try to call our office, we may

be unavailable in the event of a large scale emergency.

We will be conducting a TEST of the siren on December 24th at the start of the Santa Cruise event.

Do not be alarmed and please do not call 911.

We will put out reminders on our website and Face Book page.

www.cowlitzfd5.org



www.sparky.org

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 71st year that our members and volunteers will help Santa visit Kalama neighborhoods on Christmas Eve.



Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, we will not stop and hand out candy canes. We are saddened by this change but we hope that our good will and cheer will help to make-up for the seemingly endless changes that this year has brought us all.

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

No Canned Food drive on Christmas Eve.
Non-perishable food accepted at Kalama Helping Hand.

Managing the Stress of it all

If you are finding yourself overwhelmed with uncertainty in this ever changing world, YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

The holidays can be an extremely lonely or depressing time for many people, even in a good year. 2020 has brought with it a multitude of other worries that can consume you if you aren't careful.

- Take deep breaths, slowly inhale and exhale.
- Limit alcohol & caffeine, which can aggravate anxiety and trigger panic attacks.
- Exercise daily. Walking, dancing, jogging, whatever you enjoy.
- Do your best! Don't aim for perfection.
- Welcome humor. A good laugh goes a long way.
- Eat healthier meals paying attention to portion sizes.

Due to COVID-19, the engines are not stopping to hand out candy canes, visit children and collect canned goods on Christmas Eve.

We will still be out with Santa spreading good cheer! Watch and wave in support!

Please take your non-perishable food items to the Kalama Helping Hand on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Ready, Set, Go!

This time last year we talked about the devastating wildfires in California and being prepared in the event of an evacuation. This year we had wildfires much closer to home! By now I'm sure you realize the importance of having a plan.

The "Ready, Set, Go!" preparedness plan can be useful for many types of emergencies that may cause evacuation from your home.

- **Preparedness** - many levels/kits exist but all should include your important documents and contact information for where you are going, your local contacts and any critical medications you or your family needs.
- **Ready** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness; Pay attention to anticipated seasonal weather and current events from a credible source.
 - * **What:** Develop plans of action and advise family what response is appropriate based on the type of emergency faced. Check preparedness kit for current medications, information and rotation of stock to use for the current situation.
 - * **Who:** Discuss your plan with household members, emergency contacts, relatives and neighborhood associations.
- **Set** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness dictates you may want to consider leaving the area: arrival of expected, adverse weather; current events from a credible source have been verified (local Emergency Responders, Emergency Management alerts or reverse calling, news media). If any household members need extra time to get out, now is the time to go. It is better to leave too soon rather than too late! Also, now would be the time to move farm animals or livestock to safety.
 - * **What:** Review your plans of action based on the current situation and your planned response. Have your emergency supplies, medications and documents ready to use or transport. Everyone in the household should be prepared to leave on a moment's notice if the "Go" order is given. This includes having pets nearby and ready to leave. Make sure there are enough seats in the vehicle for everyone to ride to safety.
 - * **Who:** Household members, emergency contacts, neighborhood associations and relatives should be notified
- **Go** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness or credible "GO" notification received dictates you leave the area now. Notification could be from local Emergency Responders, Emergency Management alerts or reverse calls. Your route may be directed by emergency officials.
 - * **What:** LEAVE NOW. Execute your plan of action based on the emergency. Once relocated to a safe area, advise your emergency contacts of your physical condition, location, intended travel route and reunification location if you need to move again.
 - * **Who:** Everyone in the household, including pets. Emergency contacts should be aware of the actions being taken and respond accordingly.



Wildfires raged through many parts of the Northwest this year.



Pacific Northwesterners are certainly no strangers to the effects of flooding.