



## COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

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### We Are You

*We can't do this job alone*



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

Kalama Postal Patron

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EDDM RETAIL

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COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

# Newsletter

## 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.



## From the Chief



As 2014 draws to a close, we once again look back and wonder where it went. 2014 brought one of the worst Wildland fire seasons in Washington State history. We continue to see Mother Nature deliver extreme changes in weather from rain to heat to wind. We have seen an increase in product diversity being moved by rail, marine and truck, be it coal, oil, grain or consumer packaging. We see our core population aging as the younger population moves out of the area. Yet through it all, our little agency, the "Agency that Could", continues to move forward.

2014 allowed our **agency that could** to become

more involved with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) than ever before. From training agency personnel with DNR personnel, to sending equipment and manpower to assist throughout the State on Wildland fires.

Our **agency that could** continues to be heavily involved with the Maritime Fire & Safety Association (MFSA) allowing strengthened relationships with the US Coast Guard, private industry and the Maritime Industry.

Our **agency that could** continues to be vested in the community with diversified training in "Crude by Rail", "Marine Firefighting Technician(s)", medical, firefighting and rescue techniques, as well as involvement in planned development.

Our desire is not only to make our agency better for the ones who utilize our services, but the Community we live in as a whole.

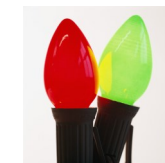
We look forward to what 2015 may bring, yet say "Thank You" to all of you for your continued support.

**From our families to yours, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

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

## Decoration Hazards

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| * Artificial trees are made from PVC which can contain lead. Wash your hands after handling the tree and lights | * Keep your cut-trees well watered  | * Look for the UL symbol on electrical decorations to ensure they have been safety tested |
| * Don't overload electrical outlets   | * Don't block exits with seasonal decorations. You may need those exits in case of fire |   |
| * Children and pets can mistake decorations for food. Watch them closely  | * Unplug lights when going to bed or leaving your home.                                 |   |
|   | * Never leave burning candles unattended  |   |



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

### Calendar of Events

- December 24 - Santa Cruise
- May 16, 2015 - Kress Lake Safety Day

**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 65th 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, 2014** 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**

# Tell us your story

Do you have a tale to tell about your experience with us? We'd love to hear it. Our Emergency Responders often times see people on their worst days. We get in, do our job and then go on to the next emergency. We don't always know the outcomes but we often think about those special people that touch our lives. If you'd like to share your story with us you can write to the District or email [dsharp@cowlitzfd5.org](mailto:dsharp@cowlitzfd5.org). Don't use identifying info and maybe you'll see your story in the next newsletter!

# Winter Safety

The official start of the Winter season is December 21, 2014. 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.**

# Welcome Our Newest Volunteers



**Victor Leatzow, IV**

Fire Cadet in High School Fire Science Program

Started 10/22/14



**Tanner Stemkoski**

Fire Cadet in High School Fire Science Program

Started 10/21/14



**Joshua Vogel**

Support Services In training for Firefighter

Started 11/12/14

# Awards

**Responder of the Year**



**Jerry Barker**

**Member of the Year**



**DeAnn Sharp**

**Community Business Supporter of the Year**



**Kalama Export**