



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

We Are You

We can't do this job alone



Find us on Facebook



www.sparky.org

Home Address Signs

Finding some homes during an emergency can be a challenge. Some addresses are out of order while others could just be downright confusing to locate! Help us find addresses quickly. Make sure your home is properly marked from the road. Solid color signs that have 3" - 4" reflective numbers work best. Rural residents of Cowlitz County Fire District #5 are eligible for FREE home safety address signs!

These signs will be provided by and installed by members of the Kalama Volunteer Firefighters Association. You can call the District Office to request a CCFD#5 address sign at 673-2222. We will need your name, phone number and address.

Please allow several days for us to order the numbers and assemble your sign. We will have someone come out and install the sign as soon as it is ready.

If you would like to support the Kalama Volunteer Firefighters Association and continue programs like this, you can send your donations to:

KVFA

P.O. Box 293

Kalama, WA 98625



PRSRD STD
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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

March 2022



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

NEWSLETTER

Recognizing Linda Knowles for 25 Years of Service and Victor Leatzow III with 30 Years of Service

After 30 years of dedicated service, Fire Chief Vic Leatzow III has left a striking impression on the Fire District, the community, and throughout Southwest Washington. Striving to do what is legally, morally, and ethically in the best interest of the Fire District has been Chief Leatzow's top priority. As a Fire Chief you are obviously expected to coordinate fire control, rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, and an emergency medical response. Additionally, a Fire Chief oversees personnel, develops a budget, monitors the care and maintenance of facilities, apparatus, and equipment, all to ensure the highest level of care possible for the community. How a Fire Chief accomplishes these tasks determines their success.

Chief Leatzow has successfully completed these essential duties with compassion for the community as well as the volunteers and staff that work for Cowlitz County Fire District 5. The sincere care and concern for both the community he has served and all of those who have worked and volunteered for the Fire District are why he has been successful. Under the direction of Chief Leatzow, the Fire District has provided the highest level of service and he has set the stage for this to continue. Chief Leatzow has installed upon us all some fundamental qualities that if used properly, will ensure that as the Fire District grows it will always provide the highest level of service.

We will miss working with Fire Chief Vic Leatzow, and we are thankful that we will remain friends.

We all wish Chief Leatzow a long and happy retirement, and we look forward to seeing him soon.



Regular Board Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm

August 1st, 1996, Cowlitz County Fire District #5 Began a new chapter. On that day, District Secretary Linda Knowles began her career with the agency. It also was the beginning of up staffing for the District as the Fire Chief Dave Bourdage was converted to a full time Chief, two-line staff were brought on board in 1996 and 1997 and then in 1998 the District added three Paramedic-Firefighters to provide ALS transport services to the Kalama community.

Linda brought a wealth of financial knowledge to the District during this time of growth. As well, she brought a smile, positive attitude, and a quiet sense of humor. Through her 25-year career with the District, Linda was the "behind the scenes" guiding light. Though "behind the scenes", Linda's valued thought and input were key factors in the positive growth for the District while maintaining financial stability.

All members of Cowlitz County Fire District #5 appreciate Linda's service. I appreciate the mentoring, counseling, guidance, ability to agree to disagree, yet most of all the friendship. Linda will and has been missed.

Vic Leatzow
Fire Chief

Enjoy your retirement!



Burn permits are available at both Station 51 on Frontage Road and station 52 on Todd road. You can also find them on our website at www.Cowlitzfd5.org

Medications: The Leading Cause of Accidental Poisoning Deaths in Children

Did you know?

- Medications are the leading cause of child poisoning today.
- Each year, more than 500,000 children under the age of five experience a potential poisoning related to medications.
- More than 60,000 children are treated in emergency departments due to accidental unsupervised ingestions each year.
- Currently, more children are brought to emergency departments for medication poisonings than for motor vehicle occupant injuries.
- Among young children, one out of every 150 2-year old's is being seen in the emergency department for medication-related poisoning.
- From 1979 to 2006, the poisoning death rate was cut in half, declining from 0.35 to 0.17 per 100,000 children. Yet, among all child poisoning deaths the number attributable to medications increased from 36 percent to 64 percent.



Prevention:

- Always put medicines and vitamins away after every use. Never leave them on the counter between dosing. Don't be tempted to "keep them handy" in a purse, backpack, or briefcase, or in an unlocked cabinet or a drawer within a child's reach.
 - Always read and follow label instructions when giving medicines to children.
 - Only use the dosing device that comes with the medication. Never use a household utensil, such as a teaspoon or tablespoon, to measure medication.
 - Up to 20 percent of pediatric poisonings involve a grandparent's medication. Make sure that all medications in the child's environment are stored out of reach and out of sight.
- Program the nationwide poison control center number ([800.222.1222](tel:800.222.1222)) into your phones.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers can be an effective tool to save lives and reduce property damage. In some cases, residents can extinguish small fires, or keep them from spreading, until the Fire Department can arrive.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

(Source: www.nfpa.org)

KNOW YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER				
CHOOSING THE RIGHT EXTINGUISHER CAN PREVENT PROPERTY DAMAGE AND SAVE LIVES				
Extinguisher Type →	Water	Foam	CO ₂	Dry Chemical
A Paper, Wood & Plastic	✓	✓	X	✓
B Flammable & Combustible Liquids	X	✓	✓	✓
C Electrical Equipment	X	X	✓	✓

Never attempt to fight a fire if it is extremely smokey.

Smoke kills more people than fire.

Get out, call 911 and stay out!

Fire Safety Reminders

- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke detectors DO EXPIRE. If your smoke detectors are 10 years old or older, it's time to replace them. Even if they are hardwired. Test your smoke detectors ONCE A MONTH.
- Remember to change the 9v batteries in your smoke detectors every 6 months or as required by the manufacturer. (Some models require no batteries changes but must be replaced entirely at the end of its life)
- Have a fire escape plan for your home. Plan 2 ways out of every room, 1 Safe Meeting Place and PRACTICE your plan with your family.
- Do not store firewood against your home. Doing so creates a fire danger and invites creepy crawlies!
- Clean and inspect chimneys and woodstove pipes each year.
- Portable heaters MUST be at least 3 feet away from any combustible items. Curtains, furniture, toys, and other items can easily ignite if placed too close to a space heater.
- Unplug unused appliances. Coffee pots, toasters, electric skillets, and other appliances have been known to short and cause fires.