



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5

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We Are You

We can't do this job alone



Find us on Facebook



www.sparky.org

Safety Reminders

Spring is here and Summer isn't far off. Whether you are doing yard work or just sitting outside enjoying the weather, here are some reminders to keep you and your family safe outdoors.

- Use extreme caution while operating riding mowers and tractors on uneven ground.
- When burning yard debris, (when there is no burn ban) ensure you are at least 50' away from structures, timber or power lines. Never leave the fire unattended.
- Keep combustibles away from your home and clean your landscape to create a defensible space from wildfire.
- Stay hydrated. By the time you feel thirsty, your body could already be starting to dehydrate. Keep a water bottle with you.
- Use sunscreen while outdoors. Even a short amount of direct sun exposure can cause sunburn and lead to future skin problems.

- Don't overexert yourself during the hottest part of the day. Plan your projects around the cooler temperatures.
- Always wear a lifejacket while recreating on or around the water. Children should be wearing a lifejacket before they walk on a dock and even on shore while playing in the water.
- Small children and open windows on warm days can be a recipe for disaster. Purchase window locks that allow the fresh air in without letting the children fall out when they push on the screens.
- **Don't be a Distracted Driver!** Let the texts and phone calls wait till you can stop and safely use your cell phone.

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NEWSLETTER

Need a Reason to Become a Fire Service Volunteer?

Well, here's a few of the benefits of becoming a Fire Service Volunteer:

1. To help others

The primary job of firefighters is to keep people in emergency situations safe. This ranges from rescuing them or their property from fires, conducting emergency medical care and transportation to the hospital, as well as providing support in search and rescue operations. Fire departments may also help their communities through educational and charity events.

2. To meet people in your community

Fire departments are often community-oriented and primarily recruit staff members from their local area. This gives firefighters the opportunity to get to know their neighbors in the workplace. These interactions can help build stronger communities and work relationships.

3. Learn what you need on the job

When you sign up to be a fire service volunteer, you'll receive all the training you need. For operational volunteers, this may mean responding to fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, natural disasters, and more. Support volunteers will assist in non-operational roles, such as public education, fundraising, and more.

4. To prepare for a full-time position

In many areas, there are more firefighter candidates than open jobs. If you want to become a full-time firefighter but can't find open positions, you can consider becoming a volunteer firefighter. This experience can teach you many important firefighting skills, increase your fitness and build your resume for future applications. Working as a volunteer firefighter can also allow you to meet other professionals in the field who may be able to help you find jobs or provide references.

5. To work after retirement

Retired Volunteers bring a lifetime of valuable knowledge and skills to the fire department. Volunteers can be "on-call" and respond to emergency calls when you're available. This can be ideal for retirees who want to serve their communities.

6. To find purpose

Volunteer firefighters often help people during the most challenging parts of their lives. They may help preserve houses and property or even save lives in emergency situations. This makes firefighting a very meaningful job for many emergency professionals.

7. To learn new skills

Volunteer firefighters go through an extensive training course just like full-time firefighters. Many of these skills are very valuable and have many applications outside of emergency services. Some of the skills you might learn when training to become a volunteer firefighter include cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, emergency injury treatment, driving skills, teamwork and leadership.

8. To receive benefits

While volunteer firefighters don't receive regular salaries like full-time firefighters, many departments provide their volunteers with different types of compensation. Other departments may give a stipend for responding to calls or attending training.

If you have the desire to volunteer, please stop by, ask any questions you may have and apply to be a truly valued volunteer.

Regular Board Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm



Free County 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

Activating EMS response and preparing for their arrival

In moments of medical emergencies, every second counts. Knowing how to prepare for EMS (Emergency Medical Services) arrival can significantly impact the outcome of the situation. Here is your guide to pre-arrival instructions to ensure a swift and effective response from EMS personnel.

Prior to an emergency it is important to have your medical documents in order and easily accessible. Having a list of medications, medical history, allergies, DNR form, and POLST forms readily available to responders (posted on the fridge) will assist responders in a seamless and efficient treatment and/or transport.



Activating 911

In case of a Medical Emergency, the first step is to activate 911. Dialing 911 will connect you to a trained dispatcher who will gather essential information. Dispatchers often will activate EMS while still asking the reporting party questions. Be prepared to provide details about the nature of the emergency, the patient's condition, and your location.

Clear Pathways and Access Points

Ensure that pathways leading to your home or location are clear and unobstructed. Remove any obstacles such as debris or parked vehicles, to allow EMS responders to reach the patient quickly and safely. If possible, try to secure animals in a separate room away from the patient.

Turn on Exterior Lights

If an emergency occurs at night or in poorly lit conditions, turn on exterior lights to help EMS responders locate your home or location. This is a simple step that can expedite their arrival and assessment of the situation.

Gather Important Information

Before the arrival of EMS, gather any relevant medical information about the patient. This includes a list of medications, known allergies, pre-existing medical conditions, and any recent changes in health status.

Render First Aid and Medical Interventions if Needed

Be prepared to render first aid and other medical interventions as instructed by the dispatcher. Depending on the situation, dispatchers may guide you through first aid, CPR, controlling bleeding or other interventions.

Meet the Responders

Designate someone to meet EMS responders outside and guide them to the patient. Provide any additional information or updates about the patient's condition. This direct communication can help EMS personnel assess the situation more efficiently on their arrival.

By following these pre-arrival instructions, you can help ensure a seamless and coordinated response from EMS personnel during an emergency. Your proactive efforts can make a significant difference in the outcome of the situation and contribute to the safety and well-being of our community.

Preparing for the Arrival of First Responders During a Fire



In the event of an active fire, swift and decisive action can save lives and minimize property damage. Here is a guide to pre-arrival instructions to ensure a rapid and effective response from Firefighters.

Activate 911

At the first sign of a fire, dial 911 immediately. Follow the dispatcher's guidance and be prepared to provide information about the location of the fire, any additional hazards, and whether anyone is trapped or injured.

Evacuate Safely

If you discover a fire in your home, prioritize your safety and the safety of others by evacuating the premises immediately. Follow established evacuation procedures and exit routes and avoid elevators.

Alert Others

As you evacuate, alert others in the building by knocking on doors and shouting warnings. Ensure that everyone is aware of the fire and is evacuating safely. If necessary, assist individuals who may require help.

Close Doors and Windows

As you leave the building, close doors and windows behind you to help contain the fire and prevent the fire from spreading. This simple step can help limit the damage and assist firefighters in extinguishment and rescue.

Stay Low to the Ground

If smoke is present, stay low to the ground where the air is clearer and cooler. Crawl if necessary to avoid inhaling smoke and toxic fumes.

Meet the Firefighters

Once you have safely evacuated the building, meet firefighters outside to inform them of any additional information about the fire. This includes the location of the fire in the building and any known hazards, persons, or pets still inside the building. Follow firefighter instructions and be available to provide assistance if needed, such as moving vehicles or providing more information about the incident.

Do Not Re-enter

Do not re-enter a burning building until firefighters have declared it safe to do so.



By pre-planning and following these instructions, you can help ensure a rapid and effective response from your firefighters. Your rapid activation of 911, quick actions and cooperation are essential for protecting lives and property in our community.