



**COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5**

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*We can't do this job alone*



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*Kalama Postal Patron*

July 2024



COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5



NEWSLETTER

# Firework Safety

With the 4th of July right around the corner, we have to remember how to celebrate safely! Injuries can occur easily and without warning. Every year, thousands of people are injured from fireworks incidents that end up requiring medical attention, often times the injuries are to children and young adults. On top of that, fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year! Remembering these safety tips will help reduce these numbers and keep you and your families safer.

- Kids should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give kids sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands. Additionally, never throw or point fireworks at someone, even as a joke.
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks or make your own

Refer to <https://www.redcross.org/local/washington/about-us/news-and-events/news/rules-on-fireworks-safety.html> for more information



## Summertime Tips

Don't let your Summer plans get wrecked by too much of a good thing!

We want to remind you to do everything in moderation and with your safety in mind.

- Limit your time in the sunlight. Use sunscreen and reapply after vigorous sweating or water activities.
- Gardening and yard maintenance should be scheduled for the coolest time of the day.
- 5:00 p.m. is typically the hottest time of the day in the Summer.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! Drinking plenty of water will keep you from feeling the nasty effects of dehydration.
- The leading cause of grill fires is failing to clean and properly maintain your grill.
- Keep the grill AWAY from your house when in use and while hot. House fires caused by grilling too close to the house are 100% preventable!
- Use a lifejacket while boating and swimming in rivers and lakes. Even the best of swimmers can get tired. The lifejacket holds you up so you can keep on having fun. Lifejackets in the pool is a great idea too!
- Parents and caregivers, PUT THE PHONE DOWN when you are supposed to be watching children in or around water.
- Prepare your vehicle for summer travel. Proper vehicle maintenance is vital to avoid being stranded on the roadside in hot temperatures.
- Don't leave children or pets alone in the vehicle.

Regular Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

## Stay Safe on the Water: Life Jacket Safety Tips

As summer rolls around and we find ourselves enjoying more time on the water, it's crucial to talk about life jacket safety. Whether you're out boating, fishing, kayaking, or just enjoying a swim, a life jacket is your best friend in the water.

### Why We Need Life Jackets

Think of life jackets as your safety net. They're designed to keep you afloat, making sure you stay above water in case of an emergency. Accidents happen fast—one minute you're fine, and the next you could be struggling with cold water, strong currents, or sheer panic. A life jacket gives you that extra support, keeping your head above water and significantly reducing the risk of drowning.

### Picking the Right Life Jacket

Choosing the right life jacket is key. There are different types for different activities. Type I PFDs are great for offshore activities and offer the highest buoyancy. For more inland activities, Type II and Type III PFDs are your go-tos. Whatever type you choose, make sure it fits well—snug but not too tight.

### Using and Maintaining Your Life Jacket

Just having a life jacket isn't enough; you need to wear it correctly. Always fasten all the straps and buckles. Kids and non-swimmers should wear life jackets anytime they're near water. And don't forget about maintenance—regularly check your life jacket for any signs of wear and tear, like rips or waterlogged material.

### Spreading the Word

Education is our best tool. Many water-related accidents can be prevented with the right knowledge. Boating courses, safety demonstrations, and public awareness campaigns go a long way in reinforcing the importance of life jackets. Set a good example by always wearing your life jacket; kids will be more likely to follow suit when they see adults prioritizing safety. Don't let your pride stand in the way of safety.



## What if Volunteer Firefighters Didn't Volunteer?

### We Can't Do This Job Alone.

Call us to learn about becoming a volunteer 673-2222.

Must be 18 or older (or enrolled in Fire Science) and live within the District #5 response area.

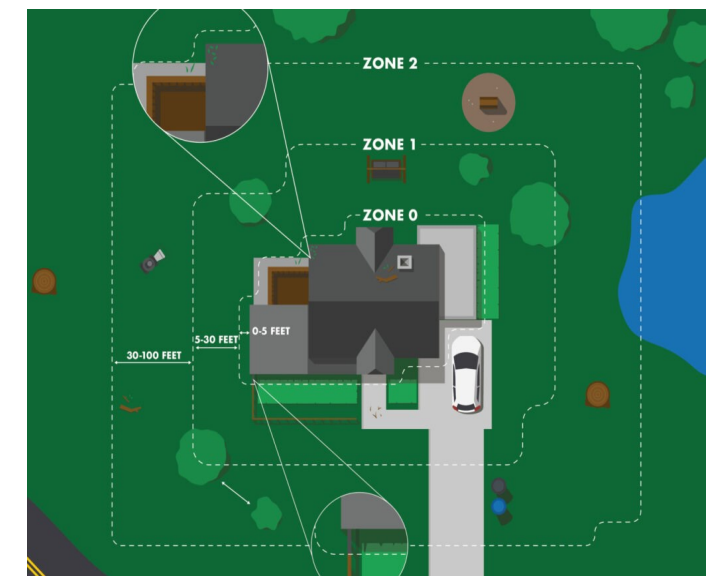
## The Importance of Defensible Space

As summer is upon us, so is wildfire season. Defensible space, which is a buffer between your home and any potential fuels or wildfire area, is crucial in preventing wildfire from spreading and protecting your home. The goal is to have 100 feet, or more to your property line, of defensible space around all areas of your home. This space can be divided into three zones:

**Zone 0:** This is considered an “ember resistant zone”. This zone is the first 5 feet from your house. It's strongly encouraged to use noncombustible materials like gravel or concrete rather than combustible materials. Keep branches trimmed away from roofs and chimneys, and minimize or move any outdoor combustible material like outdoor furniture, vehicles, etc.

**Zone 1:** This is considered the “Lean, Clean, and Green Zone”. This zone extends from Zone 0 to 30 feet from your house. Clear all dead vegetation and keep grass as short and green as possible. Remove flammable vegetation from underneath decks, and trim or prune any plants or shrubs as needed.

**Zone 2:** This is considered the “Reduce Fuel Zone”. This zone extends from 30 feet to 100 feet from your house. It is recommended to space out plants and trees horizontally, remove any dead vegetation/leaves/branches, and to ensure any outbuildings or LPG tanks have 10 feet of clear space around them.



For more information, visit: <https://readyforwildfire.org>