



# GETCHELL FIRE 22 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013

## Getchell Fire Chiefs Report

In 2012 Getchell Firefighters spent 1,685 hours at emergencies.

In 2012 fire loses for our district were only \$18,900. A record low!

In 2012 our emergency apparatus responded on 1176 calls for help.

In 2012 Saturday (151 calls) was our busiest day of the week. The slowest day of the week was Monday (110 calls).

Our very own Getchell-Firefighter EMT Crystal Simpson was working a non fire department job at a Bellevue fitness club when she was alerted that a member in the gym had collapsed. Crystal sprang into action and went to the mans location. She quickly determined that he was not breathing and his heart had stopped. Crystal started CPR and administered a life saving shock with an in gym wall mounted defibrillator. Due to Firefighter Simpsons actions the mans life was saved and he made a full recovery. The man thanked Crystal for saving his life and a local news station ran the story. Great Job!

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I have served as this communities Fire Chief for nearly 15 years. I am very proud of the many accomplishments this department has made in that time. We have procured more grant money for equipment and apparatus upgrades per capita

than any other fire Dept. in Snohomish County. Our fleet of apparatus is modern and in very good condition. Our electronic information systems are robust and some of the most state of the art in the fire service. Small tools and equipment are modern and of exceptional quality. We continue to invest heavily in our departments training program and this fact is evident with the skill and level of professionalism we see each and every day at emergency scenes.

Financially State Auditors have found that our record keeping and ability to protect public assets are more than adequate. The department is 100% debt free. We have and continue to pay cash for all major expenditures in the last 10 years.

One such area of our operation that has not vastly improved is our facility (Station 68). The building was constructed in 1964 by Volunteer Firefighters and community members with construction skills. The building was essentially a storage barn for the districts two fire apparatus. In the 1980's Fire District members remodeled the storage barn to add a third truck bay, as well as an office. Fast forward today and the foot print of our building is vastly unchanged. We have made necessary enhancements in recent years to accommodate 24 hour staffing, and electronic information systems. However the building is grossly inadequate for a 24 hour emergency service facility.

A Fire Station location feasibility study was conducted. We needed to research emergency call data to make absolute certain that we chose a new fire station site that provided the best response time to the most properties within the geographical borders of the Getchell Fire District. We also looked at planned growth, roads, controlled highway access for emergency vehicles, and safe driving speeds on response routes. Criteria established by the Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau was also factored into our research. Land that is more than 5 road miles from a fire station will receive a much higher insurance rate. We had lots of factors to analyze before choosing land for a new fire station.

After all the data was analyzed, the Fire Commissioners purchases nearly 5 acres of land for a new facility directly east of our existing station on 99th Ave NE.

When Fire District Officials embarked on this new facility plan we originally planned to be moving into a new facility in 2014. However with substantial reductions in our operating revenue due to assessed valuations declining in recent years we have had to push that plan out a few more years. We continue to aggressively save the needed dollars so that we may finish the remaining portion of our planed new facility.

The new facility will have six apparatus bays, quarters for six on duty firefighters, two offices, exercise facilities, a 50 person training/community room, training library, kitchen, dayroom, report writing areas, decontamination room, lobby, adequate storage space, and an outside training yard. It is our goal to build a cost effective facility that meets the communities needs today and 60 years from now.

We are very excited to finish this project and provide an adequate emergency services facility for our community.

Thank you for your continued support. Travis Hots Fire Chief.

## Another Clean State Audit

Every three years the Getchell Fire Department gets a visit from the Washington State Auditors Office. Its an opportunity to receive a report card from the State of Washington on how we are doing as it relates to accountability, integrity, and openness in public government.

The auditors office does not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead the

areas examined were those representing the highest risk of non-compliance misappropriation or misuse.

This particular audit occurred in late 2012 and the report was issued by the auditors office on December 3, 2012. The following areas were audited,

- Vehicle Identification
- Bank accounts
- Open public meeting act.
- Safeguarding of assets
- Medical billings

In the areas the state auditor examined they found that the Fire Districts internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The district also complied with state laws, regulations, and its own polices and procedures in the areas they examined.



**Smoke Alarms more than 10 years old should be replaced.** Aging smoke alarms are unreliable and are often the source of nuisance alarms.

**Borrowing a battery can be deadly.** Taking a battery out of a smoke alarm for another use takes away its life saving benefits and puts you and your family at risk.

**How many smoke alarms?** Install one smoke alarm in every sleeping area of your home, and at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home.

**Special smoke alarms** are available for people with hearing impairments.

**Fire drills aren't just for schools**— practice escape at home as well. Develop an escape plan with two ways out of every room, then practice so everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.

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If you are a resident that resides within the geographical border of Fire District 22 you are eligible to receive a free blue reflective address sign. The signs serve as an excellent tool for emergency service provider in locating addresses quickly when seconds count. Stop in or call the Getchell Fire Station for your free sign today.

## 2013 GRIT Students



The Getchell Fire Department recently graduated 8 recruit firefighters from its Getchell Recruits in Training better known as GRIT. The program is an 8 week 460 hour basic firefighter academy. The recruitment process began with 41 applicants. The selection process includes an oral board interview, physical agility exam, criminal and driver background investigation, and a physician's medical physical. The academy began with 14 recruits. Throughout the eight week academy, six recruits either were asked to resign, or resigned on their own. To date 40 Getchell Firefighters have achieved their goal of becoming career Firefighters in departments throughout the state.

## Grant Funded Brush Firefighting Engine

The Getchell Fire Department Administrative Staff wrote and successfully was awarded a 2013 Washington State Department of Natural Resources Rural Fire District Assistance Grant to purchase a new Brush Firefighting Engine. The whole process from the time our staff began writing the grant until we were able to place the equipment into service was about 11 months. The new apparatus is a Ford F-550 Super Duty 4X4 Extended cab with a 19,500 GVW. The pump is a 150 gallon per minute high pressure pump capable of Class A foam application. This new apparatus carries 350 gallons of water, and has eight compartments full of forestry firefighting equipment.



## Promotion to Assistant Fire Chief



Jeremy Stocker a 14 year fore service professional was recently promoted from Captain to Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Stocker will administer the Getchell Fire Department Training and Safety program, Probationary Firefighter development process, driver/apparatus pump operator program, as well as our departments wild land Firefighter initial certification program.. Chief Stocker has numerous fire service credentials, has a fire service related degree, is a certified wild land Firefighter Strike Team Leader, and instructs courses at the community college level. Chief Stocker is a very active member of the Snohomish County Fire Training and Safety Officers Association, and he was instrumental in developing a county wide standardized training curriculum that is currently being used by nearly all of the 29 separate fire department in Snohomish County.

## State Mobilization Deployments

Getchell Firefighters responded to three state fire mobilizations in 2013, and 7 state fire mobilizations in 2012, totaling 59 days deployed.

The state fire mobilization program is voluntary and a handful of Snohomish County Fire Departments participate. Getchell Fire has participated for the last 14 years. The primary advantages for our community to participate is our Firefighters gain a significant amount of experience working in as close to a disaster setting as we are going to see without having a major earth quake or Tsunami. When a large wild fire incident overwhelms a geographic region, firefighting resources are sent to the scene from all over the state to help mitigate the advancing hazard. The fire district is reimbursed for personnel and equipment costs and as an incentive to participate in this program revenue is generated by leasing some of our equipment. The fire district reserves these dollars generated on state fire mobilization to be used for apparatus replacement expenditures every few years. The 2012-13 season the Getchell Fire Department was able to generate about \$110,000.00 on state mobilization



# Clothes Dryer Fire Safety



*Failure to clean  
often leads to  
home clothes  
dryer fires!*

**Follow these simple safety tips to prevent  
a clothes dryer fire in your home!**

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.
- Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed or restricted.
- Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.



**FEMA**



For More Information:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov/  
citizens/focus](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus)





**8424 99th Ave NE**

**Arlington WA 98223**

## **2013 GETCHELL FIRE UPDATE**

**Visit us @ [WWW.GETCHELLFIRE.COM](http://WWW.GETCHELLFIRE.COM)**

### **SERVICES GETCHELL FIRE PROVIDES**

- **Fire prevention & suppression**
- **Emergency medical services**
- **Free blood pressure checks**
- **Free burn permits**
- **Transport to area hospitals**
- **Free CPR /Basic first aid course (adult, child, infant)**
- **Free fire station tours, fire safety talks**
- **Free home fire safety inspections**
- **Free blue reflective address signs**
- **Free smoke detectors**

