

SERVING THE WEST PLAINS OF SPOKANE COUNTY



SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

Fourth Quarter 2024

NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF TRAINING

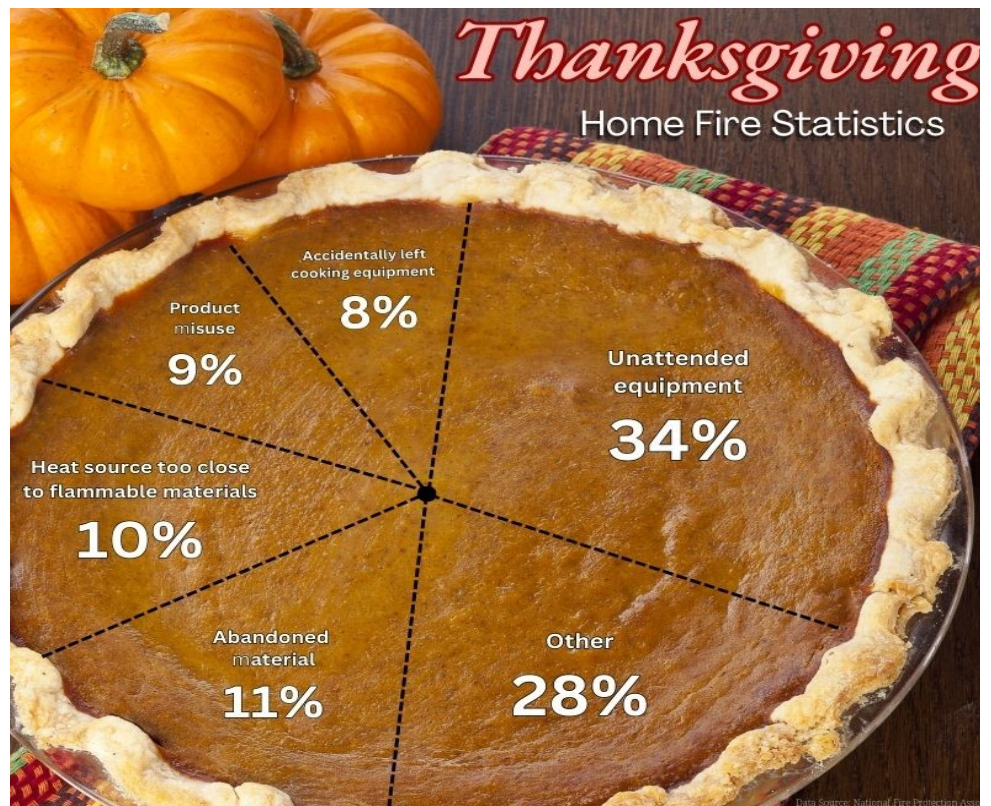
Jon Hanke is a dedicated firefighter and leader with over two decades of experience in fire service. He holds a Fire Science degree from Spokane Community College and a BA from EWU. Jon began his fire service journey as a resident firefighter at Fire District 10 in 2000 and transitioned to a volunteer role in 2003. From 2006 to 2014, he served as a Career Training Lieutenant, where he was passionate about training and mentoring new firefighters.

In 2014, Jon joined the Cheney Fire Department, where he quickly advanced through the ranks from Firefighter to Lieutenant and ultimately to Battalion Chief in 2020. Throughout his career, Jon has worked in prevention, training, and maintenance, gaining a wide range of expertise in all aspects of fire service operations.

With a solid background in wildland firefighting, Jon's early experience includes serving with the Washington Department

of Natural Resources (1999-2001) and the Bureau of Land Management (2003-2006). He currently serves as a Situation Unit Leader (SITL) on the Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) NW3.

Jon is married with two daughters and has been a proud member of the fire service community for over 20 years. He's excited to return to Fire District 10 and continue contributing to the success of the department and its members.



Data source: National Fire Protection Association

Fire Chief's Corner

As we look back on a busy summer, we are grateful for the dedication and hard work of our firefighters and mutual aid partners who helped keep our community safe during a challenging fire season. While we faced several brush fires, we are fortunate that they were largely contained to smaller sizes, with the largest fire in our district, the Upper Cemetery Fire, being held to 55 acres. This success was the result of quick, coordinated efforts by our team and our partners from surrounding agencies.

As we continue to prepare for future challenges, we're making significant

progress on our ongoing capital projects. This includes much-needed updates to our aging fire stations and the replacement of outdated apparatus in our fleet. These improvements will ensure that we are ready to respond swiftly and effectively to any emergency situation, today and in the future.

We also want to thank our citizens for their continued support. Your commitment to fire safety, as well as the dedication of our staff, is what truly makes this department strong. Together, we are building a safer community.



Thank you all for your support.

- Don Malone Fire Chief, Spokane County Fire District 10

Fire Commissioner's Report

We say goodbye to Commissioner Scott Mericle, who served as Fire Commissioner from October 2016 to August 2024. During his tenure, he played a key role in overseeing the district's strategic direction, budget management, and emergency response operations. Scott was dedicated to ensuring the safety of both the community and fire personnel, focusing on improving training programs, securing resources, and advocating for fire prevention initiatives. His leadership helped

strengthen the district's operational capabilities and fostered a collaborative environment between the fire department, local government, and the residents of the district. After nearly eight years of service, Scott retired, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to public safety and community service. Thank you for your service, Scott.

At this time, Spokane County Fire District 10 is in the process of filling Scott's Commissioner role.



West Plains Recruit Academy 2024-2 (WPRA)

Our fall volunteer West Plains Recruit academy currently in progress. Fire District 10 hired 4 volunteer recruit firefighters. Recruits began training on September 4 and will graduate on December 12th. This academy is over 200 hours of training including basic firefighting skills such as: hose line deployment and nozzle operations, ground ladders, portable fire extinguishers, victim

and firefighter rescues, forcible entry, building construction, ropes and knots just to name a few of the skills. They also are taught Hazardous Materials awareness and operations and basic pump operations. Our group of 4 is part of Battalion A which has a total of 12 recruits made up of Fire District 10, Airway Heights FD, and Cheney FD. Battalion B is entirely made up from

Fire District 3 members which has 21 recruits.



Gary Sinise Foundation Grant

Spokane County Fire District 10 recently received a \$62,120 grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting first responders, military personnel, and their families. This funding has provided the department with firefighter bail-out kits and escape belts, essential tools designed to increase safety during high-risk situations.

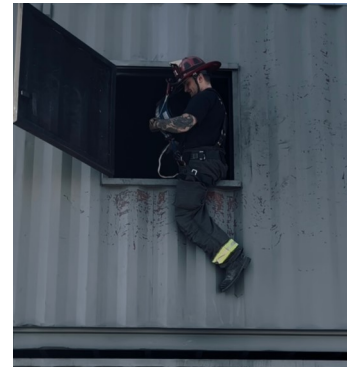
The bail-out kits and escape belts offer firefighters the ability to exit a structure rapidly if conditions become too dangerous, such as when fire intensifies unexpectedly or structural collapse is imminent. Thanks to the Gary Sinise Founda-

tion's support, Spokane County Fire District 10 is now better equipped to protect its firefighters, allowing them to respond safely and effectively in emergency situations.

As part of this initiative, three firefighters from the department traveled to California for specialized training on using these bail-out kits. These trained firefighters are now prepared to teach the rest of the agency, ensuring that all personnel gain hands-on experience and confidence in using this critical equipment.

With the new equipment and training, Spokane County Fire District 10 is better prepared to safeguard

both its firefighters and the community they serve. This investment underscores the importance of equipping first responders with the best tools available to protect lives in the line of duty.



Training Highlights

Seven members of the department went through a 2-day 16-hour class on active shooter incidents. The course is a nationally recognized curriculum that instructs first responders including police and fire with key medical skills based on tactical combat emergency casualty care guidelines, which can be used at the point of injury to increase survivability of victims. Fire District 10 was part of a West Plains grant from the Spokane County Department of Emergency Manage-

ment. The grant provided ballistic vests, helmets, and medical supplies which we will soon be carrying on our fire apparatus. The program will go live in early 2025 once all district members have gone through the necessary training.



Fire Prevention

A Successful Smoke Alarm Blitz: 48 Alarms Installed

On October 10th, 2024, Spokane County Fire District # 10 along with volunteers from Fairchild Airforce Base, supported by American Red Cross, came together for a day of action to install smoke alarms in homes that needed them most. We successfully installed **48 brand-new smoke alarms**—each one providing an extra layer of protection for families and their homes.

Why Smoke Alarms Matter

Did you know that a working smoke alarm **reduces the risk of dying in a fire by 50%**? According to the American Red Cross, roughly **3 out of 5 fire-related deaths occur in homes without functioning smoke alarms**. This is why installing and maintaining smoke alarms is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect your family in the event of a fire.

HELP US FIND YOU!

At some point in our lives, most of us will experience a medical, fire or some other type of emergency where minutes can make a difference. Properly addressed homes with reflective signage in rural areas give Fire District 10 the best opportunity for a fast, professional response minimizing confusion. We highly encourage you to order these address signs for your driveway and/or for your house.

Address Sign Order Form

The sign is a 6" X 24" double sided BLUE REFLECTIVE aluminum sign with WHITE REFLECTIVE numbering on both sides. **Cost: \$35.00**

CHOOSE ONE AND WRITE NUMBERS IN SHADED BOX

OPTION #1: Horizontal _____
OPTION #2: Vertical _____



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Fill out this form and email to us at info@scfd10.org
Or you may also call 509-244-2425
Or Stop in Station 10-1 at 929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights
WA 99001

Some Alarm Installation Request

Fire District #10 staff will provide and install smoke alarms free of charge.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



Test your smoke alarms— It's a sound you can live with!
Mail to: Fire District #10 929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights WA
99001
Or call 509-244-2425
Or email: info@scfd10.org

Fire Fleet

We are pleased to share exciting developments in the ongoing efforts to modernize our fire fleet while ensuring fiscal responsibility. Over the next 10-12 years, SCFD10 will be replacing over \$8 million worth of fire apparatus, starting with our front-line engines (currently over 12 years old) and wildland attack engines (currently over 24 years old).

We are also undertaking a strategic initiative to transition our existing front line yellow apparatus to red and ensure all first-out vehicles are updated, using only grant funds and surplus funds—no additional taxpayer dollars will be spent on this color transition of existing vehicles.

Why This Is Important:

- **Front-Line Engines:** Our front-line engines are crucial for everyday emergency responses, such as structure fires, vehicle accidents, haz-mat, and medical calls. These engines are now over 12 years old, nearing the end of their service life, and should be replaced to maintain our operational efficiency and safety. The current apparatus will be placed in reserve status and replace our current reserve status apparatus that are over 40 years old.

Wildland Attack Engines: These engines are essential for our growing wildland fire response and are now over 24 years old. Their aging components are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, and replacing them will improve our ability to respond to wildfires in our region.

Replacing Yellow Apparatus with Red:

Once we replace front-line engines and wildland attack engines, the yellow apparatus will be transitioned to reserve status or surplus due to age. Additionally, we will repaint or wrap any existing first-out apparatus to red over the next several years if they are not being replaced. This color transition will be funded entirely through grants and surplus funds—no new taxpayer dollars will be used for the transition process.

- **Grant Funds:** We will seek available grants to fund the color transition of existing apparatus, ensuring that the transition is cost-effective and efficient.

Surplus Funds: Proceeds from the sale of surplus equipment (old apparatus or equipment being replaced) will be reinvested into the fleet and used to cover the cost of repainting and other necessary updates.

Stock Apparatus for Faster Replacement:

The district will continue to prioritize stock models for new replacements when possible. These pre-manufactured vehicles are typically already painted red and offer significant cost savings—about \$20,000 less per unit in paint alone than custom-paint models. Stock vehicles are also available for delivery within 6-12 months, allowing us to replace aging apparatus more quickly and efficiently. Stock apparatus are less expensive than custom overall.

Timeline Next Steps:

- **Front-Line Engine Replacement:** The first of our new front-line engines are expected to be delivered within the next 12-14 months.
- **Wildland Attack Engine Replacement:** One of the wildland attack engines will be replaced in the next 2-3 months.

Color Transition: The repainting of existing first-out apparatus to red will begin once new vehicles are in service and will be funded through grants and surplus funds.

Replacing our front-line engines (12+ years old) and wildland attack engines (24+ years old) will improve our fire district's ability to respond to both everyday emergencies and wildfires. The transition to red-painted vehicles will help save production time, money, standardize the fleet's appearance, and provide modern, reliable equipment to serve the community effectively. Best of all, this color initiative ensures that the cost of the transition of current apparatus is covered by external funding, sparing taxpayers from additional financial burden.

Thank you for your continued support as we make these important updates to our fleet. As always, we are committed to being good stewards of taxpayer money and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Don Malone
Fire Chief



Join the Spokane County Fire District 10 Team

Mission Statement

Protecting life, property, and the environment. Presenting education and prevention information. Providing fire, medical and emergency services safely. Performing professionally and politely.

Vision Statement

Fire District 10 is a professional emergency service organization dedicated to meeting the current and future needs of the West Plains community by enhancing service through cooperation, technology and continuing education.

Values

A Firefighter is a person of integrity. As a firefighter I will:

Respond quickly to aid those in need. Act with compassion, empathy, and integrity. Exceed citizen expectations. Recognize that I am a servant and good steward of public trust. Continually improve my knowledge, skills, and abilities



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