

KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 6



CHIEF'S CORNER



With weather warming up, so have the number of calls for service. While we continue to see an increase in call volume, we are also seeing an increase in the complexity of calls demanding more from our first responders.

The warmer weather also brings an increase of visitors and those spending time at the lake. The lake water is cold and the afternoon winds make conditions rough so PLEASE wear a life jacket!

SPRING/SUMMER

NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Water Safety
- Life Jacket Stands
- Grant Awards
- WSRB Rating
- Burn Ban
- Volunteering with D6

WATER SAFETY & LIFE JACKET STANDS

Never go out in cold water without a life jacket or PFD: Boaters, paddlers, Kayakers, and others alike should never go out on the water without a personal floatation device. This is the most important water safety practice. Wearing a lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device (PFD) is **doubly important in cold water.** In cold water blood rushes out the arms and legs in order to preserve vital organs. In other words, your arms and legs, which you need to stay afloat, are simply not going to work in cold water. Without a lifejacket, even the strongest swimmers sink in a few minutes because they can't tread water to keep themselves afloat.

In 2020, Kittitas County Fire Protection District 6 built a life jacket stand and placed it at Speelyi Beach. This stand is dedicated to the memory of Peter Phan a firefighter from Mountain View Fire Department who lost his life in Lake Cle Elum on July 6th, 2019.

Since then, we've raised monies independently and partnered with Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission to expand these stands to other locations throughout the Kittitas County. Currently, we have completed the build of 2 portable stands and will be delivering them to Sno-Pass Fire Rescue for placement and Lake Kachess and Keechelus Lake. Additionally, we are building 3 more of these portable stands with one of them slated for Wish Poosh on Lake Cle Elum and the other two locations TBD.



GRANT AWARDS - DNR & GREATER COLUMBIA ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH

We are extremely excited as we recently received a \$76,000 grant from DNR to re-chassis one of our brush trucks. The funding award is for a new chassis for our Type 5 Wildland Engine, brush 611 (B-611) We focused our ask on firefighter safety and therefore concerned given that our current wildland engine was repurposed 10 years ago and is now over 30 years old, single cab, and top heavy. (We note that that I-JS Fire Administration calls out repurposed apparatus as a significant factor in vehicle accidents.)



In addition, we received a grant for up to \$150,000 for the advancement of the health of our population by decreasing health disparities, improving efficiency of health care delivery, and empowering individuals and communities through collaboration, innovation, and engagement. With these monies we will be hiring a Community Health Program Manager, temp position-part time 8/1/22 through 7/31 23. Our primary goal is to improve access to care and services while avoiding the duplication of existing services.

IMPROVED FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE RATING WITH WASHINGTON STATE RATINGS BUREAU (WSRB)

After 3 years of hard work and focus improving operational readiness, reporting, response, and training, we recently received notification from WSRB that our recalculated protection class rating is a 5-7. This new rating will take affect August 1st, 2022. We are also working with the WSRB to add a tender credit which will improve our outlying areas from a 7 to a rating of 6.

What does this mean for the residents? The benefit is twofold. First, the average homeowner could save hundreds of dollars on their insurance premiums annually and second, both residents and visitors will reap the benefits of a healthier fire department with more responders, better trained responders, quicker response times and updated equipment. All of which provide for firefighter and resident safety.

Additionally, this will give homeowners options when it comes to shopping for competitive insurance premiums whereas, they may have had to settle for high-risk insurance in the past. At this moment we are a Protection Class rating of 4.19, so very close to a PC 4. We are committed in our efforts to improve our PC rating with a goal of dropping to a PC 4-5 and saving our residents even more on insurance.

NEW WEBSITE & ONLINE PRESENCE



Kittitas County Fire Protection District 6



We are excited to share with you our new fire department website! <https://kcfpd6.com>

Simply follow the link to:

Meet your Officers, Commissioners, Secretary/Treasurer

Become a Volunteer

Check out the latest news

See what we're doing to Support our Community

Direct your insurance agent to important information

Order a new reflective house number sign

Identify station locations and current apparatus

See burn ban information

Don't forget to check out our Facebook,
Instagram and YouTube channel

VOLUNTEERING FOR FIRE DISTRICT 6



If you love helping your community, come join us! As a volunteer, you will be fully trained in firefighting and rescue, operating the district's firefighting apparatus, first aid and CPR. There are training opportunities to support structure fires, wildland fires and EMS. District 6 volunteers play a critical role in providing service to the community. Download our D6 Employment Application <https://kcfpd6.com> to get started! For more information, please call (509) 649-2600 or (509) 674-8007.

BURN BAN

We do not currently have a burn ban in place however, your local fire chiefs are discussing the conditions and will communicate when a ban goes into affect.

Fire Safety Burn Bans (typically called for in the summer)

The county Fire Marshal, works with the DNR, Forest Service and various fire districts when declaring a fire safety burn ban. When the fire danger reaches a critical level the potential for large scale wild fires increases dramatically and this is often the trigger point for a burn ban. For most of us, including the public, this is easy to understand.

Air Quality Burn Bans (typically called for in the fall and winter)

Air quality burn bans are currently regulated by Washington State Department of Ecology although local jurisdictions do have the authority to implement their own system provided it does not reduce public safety. Determining when a burn ban is imposed and at what level is achieved by actual air monitoring and weather forecasting, typically no more than two days out.

Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are allowed in unincorporated areas of Kittitas County, provided that no restrictions or burn bans are in effect. The following rules for Recreational Fires shall apply at all times:

Recreational fires, campfires, cook fires, etc. shall be no greater than 3' x 3' in diameter and no more than 2' in height.

No recreational fires shall be located within 25 feet of any structure.

A person capable of utilizing fire extinguishing equipment such as buckets, shovels, garden hoses connected to a water supply, fire extinguishers, heavy equipment, etc., shall be on site at all times; and

Fire extinguishing equipment such as buckets, shovels, garden hoses connected to a water supply, fire extinguishers, heavy equipment or any equipment that will provide suppression of the proposed fire, shall be on site at all times while the fire is burning.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Check to see if a county burn ban is in place prior to burning. There are two types of burn bans - Fire Safety and Air Quality.

Check with the Department of Ecology (DOE) to determine if there is an air quality burn ban in effect. Their number is 509-575-2490 .





We are a key team player with citizens, local businesses, and other government agencies working together to maintain a proud community with a strong sense of safety and security. Kittitas County Fire Protection District 6 provides responsive services to the citizens by investing in training, education, staffing and equipment. We are dedicated and compassionate professionals, who recognize our greatest strength lies in our team approach.



GET IN TOUCH

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