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IN THIS EDITION:

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ENGAGE WITH "COMMUNITY CONNECT"

Easy for residents, intuitive for responders.
"Community Connect" bridges the information gap before 9-1-1 is called. Learn how you can help with pre-planning so that we can better serve you during an emergency. Sign up at www.ckfr.org



Fall/Winter 2019-20

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

By Chief John Oliver

I want to start out this communication by saying thank you. Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue is extremely grateful for the support we receive from our community.

It takes careful planning to meet the emergency service needs of our community as it grows. Recently, CKFR completed master plans for its staffing and apparatus needs. The next step, and possibly the most challenging, is improving our fire stations which will require a bond. Fire stations are expensive, and funding them out of operating revenue would limit our ability to provide emergency services.

All of our stations have been assessed in a comprehensive facilities plan that the Board of Fire Commissioners passed during its November meeting. (You can read the report on our website at www.ckfr.org.) The news is not unexpected, but still somewhat grim.

Many of our stations are nearly 60 years old. None are up to current earthquake standards, which is a concern for our ability to respond

in case of this type of natural disaster. Several are located significant distances away from populated areas which increases response times. Most are too small to shelter modern apparatus leaving these investments exposed to weather which reduces their life span.

Firefighter health and safety is also an issue. Our stations lack effective diesel exhaust removal systems and decontamination areas to reduce firefighter exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens and infectious diseases. Many facilities also are not equipped with security systems, commercial fire alarms, or sprinklers.

Adequate facilities are just as important to saving lives as emergency personnel and apparatus. They may not be as exciting, but they are necessary. This will be a public process and we appreciate you being open to learning more. In the meantime, we want to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.



FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER

Reproduced with permission of Fireline

Colder months mean more time indoors with friends and family. Follow these simple tips to prevent fires before they happen and enjoy the holiday season!

Have Your Furnace Checked

Invest in hiring a professional to come and inspect your furnace annually. It's always better to know when something is not working properly than to have it abruptly break down in those cold winter months when you need heat the most.

Inspect Chimneys and Vents

Fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting. If your family has a fireplace, have an annual chimney inspection to make sure that there are no hazards capable of starting a fire. It's important to always remember that when burning wood, use dry,



seasoned wood which produces more flame with less smoke.

Screen Your Fireplace

Either a metal screen or tempered glass will suffice to protect any sparks from leaving the fireplace. Still, you always want to make sure to keep kids and pets at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.

Beware of Space Heaters

Avoid placing heaters near curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Always make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to quit as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level.

Candle Caution

Candles can be easily knocked over by kids or pets. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them, blowing them out whenever you intend to leave the room.

Test Smoke Alarms

You always want to double check that your batteries are fresh and will last you through the winter. Always place smoke alarms in the kitchen, bedrooms, and the laundry room.

SANTA IS COMING!

Did you know that Santa rides a Central Kitsap fire engine? It's true! This December, Santa and his elves are coming to a neighborhood near you. He will be visiting the Meadowdale, Kariotis, North Perry, Lake Symington, Ridgetop, and Chico neighborhoods. Santa will be collecting donations for the Central Kitsap Food Bank, handing out candy canes, and taking pictures with families. Join us this December and let Central Kitsap be a part of your holiday season! Each night from around 6pm to 8:30pm Santa will be in the neighborhoods below, be sure to check out the maps at www.ckfr.org/santa and follow us live on Facebook!

12/6 Meadowdale - 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12/7 Kariotis - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
12/8 North Perry - 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12/13 Lake Symington - 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12/14 Ridgetop - 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12/15 Chico - 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

