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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



SIREN

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

By Chief John Oliver



I want to continue to reassure you that we’re ready to respond. We are here if you or a family member need us in any emergency. That is possible because of your support for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, and we thank you.

Our Board of Fire Commissioners decided to postpone its facilities bond to replace and renovate fire stations in our community. We recognize that there is economic uncertainty for many in our community, and all our energy right now is going to support our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These station projects are still needed. The pandemic has shown we lack adequate facilities that are resilient to diseases for the safety of our community and firefighters. For example, all of the station projects would improve decontamination areas for personnel that respond to not only fires, but also medical emergencies, like now.

Another benefit is that these station projects are “shovel ready.”

Once funding is approved by voters, these construction projects will create jobs, and stimulate the local economy. This will be an opportunity to put people back to work and dollars into our community.

Timing for the bond election is still planned for 2020. We retired a former bond for apparatus, and a Maintenance and Operations Levy has expired. As a result, property owners would see a net decrease in what they paid in taxes to the District in 2019 by the time the new bond is collected in 2021.

If the economic outlook improves this summer, the Board of Fire Commissioners will consider the November General Election. More information on the facilities bond proposal can be found on the District’s website at www.ckfr.org. In the meantime, be safe, and please stay at home until this virus passes. Thank you.

WILDLAND FIRE SEASON IS APPROACHING

Little rain last fall, along with an unseasonably warm winter and spring, have resulted in a large amount of underbrush to grow. This brush will dry quickly as temperatures rise, and is the primary fuel for wildland fires on the west side of the Cascades. Many communities across the state are already seeing brush fires happen as a result. The time you're spending at home could be used to prepare your property for wildland fire season. Here are some helpful tips to consider.

COMMUNITY CONNECT: Our Community Connect Platform (on our home page at www.ckfr.org) allows homeowners to provide vital information to our first responders. The information you provide through this portal is uploaded to emergency personnel when you call 911, and is used to better serve your family and property.

ACCESS: First, provide and maintain good access to your

home and/or shop for allowing firefighting vehicles the ability to get onto your property as well as be able to turn around and leave. Firefighters and apparatus cannot go into areas where there are no access options.

ADDRESS: Firefighters also need to be able to locate your property. Have your address posted on your driveway entrance as well as your house.

CREATE A BARRIER: Creating a "fire barrier" to homes and outbuildings is critical. Some simple tips to protect structures are as follows:

- Maintain a 30-foot defensible space around your home.
- Keep lawns well-watered.
- Prune or remove combustible trees or shrubs that are too close to your home.
- Clean gutters and roofs of any debris regularly.
- Screen off crawl spaces, attics and decks to keep them free of debris, as well as any flying embers.

- Do NOT store combustibles, such as wood piles, under your deck or near your home.

We are looking forward to hosting Wildland Fire Prevention and Preparation seminars this summer when social distancing is lifted. Our experts will provide "town hall" type events on how

MASK UPDATE

COVID-19 spreads through respiratory droplets from an infected person that is in close proximity to you. That's why the Centers for Disease Control encourage social distancing of at least six feet. Groups of people, or large crowds make this more difficult, which is why we are asking you to stay home.

Masks or coverings over your nose and mouth can help prevent the spread of the virus. If you have to go out for essential needs, we encourage you to wear this type of face covering to help prevent the spread of the virus.

to prepare for, prevent and react in case of a wildland fire. We will share the dates, times and location on our website and through social media when appropriate. Please visit our website at www.ckfr.org to learn more about how to make your home and property more resistant to wildland fire.

