

House Calls



NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9



CELEBRATION
of our **NEW**
AMBULANCE
SERVICE

**JULY 1
10 AM**

Station 92
3801 E. Farwell Rd



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Fire District 9



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website**

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509-466-4602

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Advancing Public Safety and Strengthening the Future of Fire District 9

Our team at Spokane County Fire District 9 are proud to serve the residents, visitors, and businesses that make our district such a strong and vibrant community. Every day, our firefighter/paramedics and EMTs answer the call to protect lives, property, and the well-being of our community. As our district continues to grow, so do the demands placed on our emergency services system.

As you are reading this, two very historic milestones have been reached at District 9.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN STRATEGIC PLAN

Our first-ever community-driven Strategic Plan has been completed and is now ready for distribution. This plan reflects more than a year of dedicated work, in-depth analysis, and collaboration as we conducted a comprehensive review of every aspect of our fire district, including our apparatus fleet, facilities, staffing, and deployment strategies. Through this process, we identified several long-overdue improvements that are essential to meeting the increasing demands on our services created by the continued growth of our district and the complexities of the emergency calls we respond to. These improvements will help ensure we can continue providing the highest level of emergency service to our community for many years to come.

FIRE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

The second milestone reached is the implementation of the county's first-ever fire-based emergency medical transport system. Spokane County Fire District 9 will officially go live with this new service on July 1, marking a significant advancement in the delivery of emergency medical services within our region. This forward-thinking progressive approach will not only improve service efficiency and effectiveness, it will also represent an estimated savings of more than \$850,000 to the taxpayers of our Fire District with our resident waiver program.

These accomplishments reflect our commitment to innovation, fiscal responsibility, and ensuring our community receives affordable, high-quality emergency services both now and into the future.

CONTINUED >>>



MATTHEW T. VINCI
FIRE CHIEF



EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

Today, our fire district faces a critical need to modernize and strengthen the resources that support our emergency response capabilities across our district. Many of our fire engines and frontline emergency vehicles have served our community for decades and are now reaching the end of their reliable service life. Aging apparatus requires increasingly costly repairs, experiences more downtime, and can impact our ability to respond quickly and safely during emergencies. It becomes more commonplace that we are utilizing reserve apparatus as our frontline fire engines are in for repairs.

Replacing these aging fire engines and critical emergency equipment is essential to maintaining dependable service and ensuring our firefighters have the tools necessary to protect our community effectively.

In addition to apparatus replacement, foundational training programs remain one of the most important investments we can make in our professional team. Emergency response continues to evolve as incidents become more complex, ranging from wildland urban interface fires to advanced medical emergencies and technical rescue operations. Ongoing training ensures our personnel are safely prepared to meet these challenges with professionalism, skill, and confidence.

Our district is also experiencing **increased call volumes and growing service demands** driven by population growth, traffic volume, and residential and commercial development throughout the region.

Additional staffing will be necessary to maintain effective and efficient response times, improve firefighter safety, and ensure we can continue providing the high level of emergency service our community expects and deserves. Adequate staffing allows us to respond more efficiently to simultaneous emergencies while reducing fatigue and burnout among first responders.

Equally important are the health, safety, and wellness programs that support our firefighters and emergency personnel. The physical and

emotional demands of this profession are significant. Investments in behavioral health resources, fitness programs, cancer prevention measures, and safety initiatives help ensure our personnel remain healthy, resilient, and ready to serve when our community needs them most.

Finally, and very importantly, many of our fire stations and facilities have not seen significant upgrades in decades. Modernizing these facilities is critical to improving the deployment of emergency resources, supporting firefighter readiness, and preparing for the future growth of our district. Updated modern facilities will help us operate more efficiently, enhance emergency response capabilities, and better serve our expanding community for years to come.

We remain committed to being responsible stewards of public resources while continuing to provide exceptional emergency services. The investments we make today will strengthen public safety, improve emergency response, and ensure Spokane County Fire District 9 remains prepared to meet the needs of tomorrow. 9



Ready When It Counts:

How Staffing and Equipment Matter

In this article of House Calls I thought it might be helpful to describe the benefits and constraints to staffing our fire engines. When a fire department is

responding to a house fire there are state laws that dictate what they can do upon arriving on scene. "Initial attack operations must be organized to ensure that if, on arrival at the emergency scene, responders

Personnel and apparatus are the two largest expenses of the fire district. They are also our two greatest resources for protecting our community.

find a known rescue situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action must only be permitted when no less than three personnel (2-in/1-out) are present and equipped to provide emergency assistance or rescue of the team entering the hot zone" (WAC 296-305-05002). In the event that there are less than three personnel, laws limit them from entering the structure. This can occur in smaller departments or volunteer only departments. Initial attack with four-person crews (2-in/2-out) allow for personnel to enter the building to fight fire or make a rescue, while leaving two personnel outside to pump water and establish incident command. This is the model that allows us to provide the quickest and most effective response to extinguishing the fire and conserve your property. Statistics show that if we can keep the fire to the room of origin, the loss of life and damage to the structure is at its lowest level.

When responding to critical EMS calls, such as cardiac arrest, statistics show the faster CPR and advanced life support measures are started the higher the chance of survival and recovery is. Our department is trained to perform what is called "Pit Crew CPR." This takes a minimum of five personnel with additional personnel to rotate every two minutes on chest compressions. Studies show that effective chest compressions diminish after a person performs chest compressions beyond two minutes.



On these critical calls, we respond with two engine companies, so we have adequate personnel to administer the best outcomes possible. We are able to provide the most effective level of service when we can staff four per engine.

Beginning July 1, our department will add dual-role certified firefighter/paramedics/EMTs who will staff our ambulances as part of our new ambulance transport service. These district 9 staff will provide us much needed resources to accomplish both life safety and property conservation objectives during structure fires while also improving our ability to provide effective, life-saving CPR during critical medical emergencies like I stated above. These highly trained personnel will not only enhance our EMS transport response capabilities, but they will also provide additional staff when needed on fire and rescue incident. This integrated staffing model strengthens our ability to deliver rapid, effective emergency services across all types of calls while also saving our community money on ambulance transport services.

In previous article I have discussed our fire insurance rating through the WSRB, the Washington State Rating Bureau. Our rating of a 4 impacts your insurance costs. WSRB has limits to how long we can keep fire engines in a front line service capacity. Fire engines can operate for 10 years before they are placed in the reserve pool. Reserve engines are used when the front line engine is being serviced or repaired. The engine can remain in a reserve role for an additional 10 years. After 20 years of total service, they need to be retired, in order to maintain a quality WSRB status. After this many years of service apparatus generally cost more to maintain due to the wear and tear on them over 20 years of emergency response.

Our strategic planning process has allowed us to take an in depth look at how we can most effectively deploy our fire service personnel and apparatus to protect the residents of Fire District 9. We look forward to discussing the results of our strategic plan and the needs of your fire district with our community throughout this upcoming summer. 9



House Calls

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HOUSE CALLS is a publication of
Spokane County Fire District 9

Gregory M. Anderson, Commissioner
James E. Bennett, Commissioner
Brian A. Mather, Commissioner
Matthew T. Vinci, Fire Chief



SAVE THE DATE

October

3

2026

SCFD9
DEMO DAY!

10 am - 2 pm

	OCTOBER 3, 2026 FROM 10AM TO 2PM	
	3801 E. FAWELL ROAD MEAD, WA 99021	FREE family friendly event!

Spokane County Fire District 9 is hosting our annual Demo Day featuring live demonstrations by your local firefighters along with many hands on activities and Community Organizations.



CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW

AMBULANCE SERVICE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

OUR OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Spokane County Fire District 9

 **July 1st, 2026** |  **10:00 AM**

 **Station 92, 3801 E. Farwell Rd. – Mead, WA, 99021**

Please join us in marking this important moment for our community.