



Walla Walla County Fire District #4 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

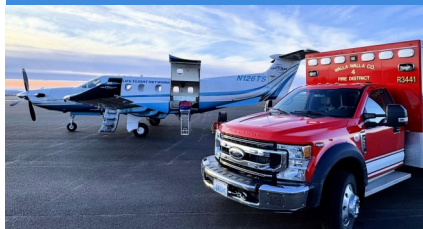
5-YEAR SUMMARY OF RESPONSE

2024	1158
2023	1065
2022	1104
2021	1034
2020	841

**EMS CALLS ACCOUNT
FOR THE MAJORITY
OF ALL CALLS – 70%**

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Vern Myrick
Larry Hector
Keith Farrens



2251 S. Howard St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 529-1282
www.wwfire4.com

Message from the Chief

I would like to open this newsletter by once again thanking the community for your support of the fire levy lid lift passed in August 2024. Your support is appreciated more than can be described in a few words in this newsletter. Your firefighters and EMT's understand that your support is a reflection on the positive interactions each of them provide to you when you call 911 or we happen to meet at a public event.

I am happy to report the progress on our commitments we made for the levy.

Fund Essential Emergency Services

We completed our 2025 Budget and we were able to fully fund emergency operations and once again fully fund our apparatus replacement program. The cost of apparatus is significant and with over thirty different apparatus, proper replacement funding is essential.

Replace Aging Apparatus

We purchased a stock Pierce fire engine that will be delivered in April. By purchasing a stock unit, we were able to save \$75,000 - \$100,000.

Hire Additional Firefighter/Paramedics

We hired one additional Firefighter/EMT in November who will start his paramedic training in the fall. We have budgeted to hire one an additional Firefighter/Paramedic later this year.

Renovations for Firefighter Safety

We are in the final stages of negotiations with a vendor to install exhaust filter systems on apparatus that captures harmful particulates and gases.



2024 was once again a record-breaking year for responses. We ended the year with a total of 1158 responses with 70% being for emergency medical services.

I have announced my intention to retire as Fire Chief effective March 31, 2025. I plan to transition to a volunteer responder at Station 45 on Mill Creek Road. This is the station I started my firefighting career in 1988. Serving the Fire Commissioner Board and you as your Fire Chief for the past twenty years has been an honor and privilege. The men and women of the Fire District are amazing and their dedication is second to none. I will miss the daily interaction with the crews, but I am looking forward to spending time with my wife seeing more of this wonderful place we call the USA.

I am pleased to announce that the Fire Commissioners have appointed Deputy Chief John Golden as your next Fire Chief effective April 1, 2025. Deputy Chief Golden is a 33-year member of Fire District 4 and has held the ranks of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and now Fire Chief. Chief Golden will provide excellent leadership for the Fire District in the coming years.

Sincerely,
Rocky Eastman

The mission of the Walla Walla County Fire District #4 is to safely provide proficient and competent fire, emergency medical and other related services to the Fire District citizens and guests in a fiscally responsible manner. Our personnel will demonstrate professionalism and compassion, while performing our duties expeditiously and efficiently.



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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

The tragic Los Angeles fires in January results in twenty-nine deaths and thousands of homes destroyed. These fires spread rapidly due to severe wind events that spread embers from house to house. The embers ignited structure after structure and quickly overwhelmed the fire department resources. Ember production will occur in all fires and is the leading cause of structure ignitions in wildfires. Creating defensible space around your home is one of the best ways to enhance the fire preparedness for your property.



ZONE 1: 0 - 5 FEET FROM THE HOUSE

This area, closest to the house, is the most critical for fire protection. Have nothing flammable next to the house, including tall grass, evergreen trees and shrubs, trees that overhang the house or deck, leaves, brush, firewood piles, bark, mulch and other burnable items. Clean gutters, roof, and deck of flammable debris.

ZONE 2: 5 - 30 FEET FROM THE HOUSE

Maintain a well-kept lawn and avoid evergreens that catch fire easily and burn quickly. Occasional trees and shrubs should be at least 10 feet from the house. Space trees with 10-15 feet between tree crowns and prune trees 10-15 feet up from the ground.

ZONE 3: 30-100 FEET FROM THE HOUSE

Prune and thin trees so there are no dense stands or tree tops touching. Keep shrubs small, maintained, and free of dead materials. Control brush and weeds annually. Steep areas can be terraced to slow down wildfires. A stone wall can also act as a fire barrier on very steep slopes.

THE HOUSE: BUILD WITH FIRE IN MIND

Build your house on a level location. Houses overhanging steep slopes are very vulnerable to wildland fires. Enclose any open space underneath decks with screen to prevent embers from entering. Use fire resistant building material for both the siding and the roof. Avoid wood shake roofs for woodland homes. Make sure firefighters can find and reach your home.