



**Riverside
Fire & Rescue**

Fire Station 74
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Fire Commissioners
John Campbell
Peter Allison

Fire Chief Staff
Kira Thirkield
Fire Chief

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**In An Emergency
Dial 9-1-1**



THE DISPATCH

WINTER HEATING SAFETY TIPS

Heating equipment is a leading cause of fire related deaths in the home. Half of all home heating related fires happen between December and February. Here are some simple ways to decrease your risk.

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season due to malfunctioning heating equipment and chimney's.

Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible from your home.

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.

Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

SANTA IS COMING!

Keep a look out for Santa in our neighborhood soon!

December 11: Puyallup City Limits to 76th Ave E

Including: Cottonwood, Tacoma Rd, Rivercrest RV

December 12: 76 Ave E to Gay Road E

Including: Majestic, Riverside Villa

December 13: Gay Road E to Tacoma City Limits

Including: Redgate, Tacoma Country, Valleybrook



We will be out with Santa spreading the holiday cheer and collecting can food for local food banks as well as monetary donations to supplement the food banks other times of the year. Flu shot



DON'T FORGET TO

get your

Flu



Shot

PROUDLY SERVING PIERCE FIRE DISTRICT 14 & THE PUYALLUP TRIBAL NATION
PROFESSIONALISM ACCOUNTABILITY COURTESY COMPASSION INTEGRITY COMMITMENT



Fire Statistics:

In 2016 50.3% of home fires were caused by cooking.

2017 Statistics:

52 home fire fatalities were reported in Washington alone.

The US had 3,400 fire fatalities and over 14,000 injuries.

Across the US we lost 87 firefighters in the Line of Duty.

Flu Statistics:

2018 study showed flu shots reduced pregnant women's chances of being hospitalized for the flu by 40%

2016-2017 flu vaccines prevented an estimated 85,000 flu-related Hospitalizations.

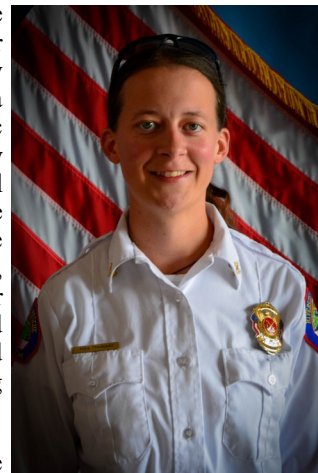
2018 study showed flu vaccines from 2012-2015 reduced the risk of adult admissions to the ICU with flu by 85%



A LOOK AT YOUR DEPARTMENT

A LETTER FROM YOUR NEW FIRE CHIEF

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your new Fire Chief. I have worked at Riverside since 2005 starting as a volunteer firefighter. I have an extraordinary passion for fire and emergency services as well as the district of Riverside. I would like to share a few of the many reasons I am excited to be leading this specific department. Riverside is unique in the fact that it is a small, primarily volunteer department which are typically found in much more rural areas. We are fortunate to be located between several large fire departments in an overall extremely progressive County. While mostly volunteer, we proudly have the same training, equipment, policies and overall professionalism as surrounding career departments. We are also the training ground for many men and women who go on to careers in the fire service across the state and nation. This high turn over keeps us busy but is extremely rewarding and helps cultivate a culture of ongoing training and enrichment.



As the Fire Chief, my priority is providing the highest level of service to the community which includes emergency response, public education and training, fire prevention and many other community events. In order to achieve this I have begun a thorough audit of all operations and administrative functions including a line item budget review. Through this review I have been able to implement many cost saving and innovative process efficiency practices. We are continually evaluating these implementations and making adjustments and updates to them in a constant pursuit to increase performance, safety and overall operations.

One of the many achievements I am excited to announce is the hiring of another full time fire officer giving us one Line Officer and two Chief Officers which, in addition to administrative functions, staff and respond as firefighter/EMTs 24/7. This is the first time Riverside has had 3 full time staff, allowing a tremendous increase in reliable, high quality service. This addition has also allowed us to conduct in house training and a fire academy freeing up our budget for other operations.

We have also received multiple grants this year totaling over \$50,000 allowing us to buy new bunker gear and new breathing apparatus to keep our firefighters safe. The bunker gear grant was provided by Firehouse Subs Foundation. This is the second grant in 3 years from this great organization to buy new bunker gear. The grant for our breathing apparatus was from the generous Puyallup Tribe who has continually supported Riverside throughout its history.

2018 was a productive, progressive year amidst all of the administrative changes and we are all excited for what 2019 will bring. As your new Fire Chief, I welcome you to contact me or stop by our station any time with questions or to just learn about your Fire Department.

Kira Thirkield

RIVERSIDE FIRE & RESCUE MISSION AND VISION

Working as a team, we are dedicated to serving our customers. We will strive to be financially responsible and use cost effective systems to provide professional affordable services. Our goal will be to continually learn, change and improve. We will focus on results, providing the best possible service to the citizens and visitors of our district, 24 hours a day.

Our vision is to be responsive to the changing needs of our community, professionally providing quality fire and emergency services to the customers in a manner that encourages pride, respect, and confidence in our organization by the members of the community.

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Our Volunteers are required to work (4) 12 hour shifts per month.

Department drills are Tuesdays 1830-2130 and again Friday 1000-1300



80% of drill attendance is required quarterly

All firefighters are required to complete a Fire Academy and obtain EMT-B within a year.



Additional training offered includes:

Driver/Operator
Vehicle Extrication
Hazardous Materials
Swift Water Rescue
Wildland Firefighter
Officer Development

THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

FIRE ACADEMY STARTS IN JANUARY! THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR A FUTURE IN THE FIRE SERVICE WHILE SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS RUN PRIMARILY BY VOLUNTEERS, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO HELP US OUT AND SPREAD THE WORD!

A GLANCE AT FIRE ACADEMY

THE TYPICAL DAY AT FIRE ACADEMY IS VERY BUSY. THERE ARE ACADEMIC AND PHYSICAL FITNESS COMPONENTS TO THE DAY, AND A LOT OF INFORMATION IS COMPRESSED INTO THE SCHEDULE. RIVERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE TAKES PRIDE IN ITS EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND, AS A RESULT, RIVERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE'S FIREFIGHTERS ARE TRAINED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE SHORT DURATION RECRUITS SPEND IN THE ACADEMY.



RECRUIT FIREFIGHTERS WILL SPEND 5-6 MONTHS IN TRAINING ACADEMY. RECRUITS MUST BE SEATED AT THEIR DESK PREPARED FOR THE DAY AT 1800 ON WEEKDAYS AND 0800 ON WEEKENDS. THE RECRUIT ACADEMY TYPICALLY RUNS TWO EVENINGS A WEEK FOR AROUND 4 HOURS AND SATURDAY ALL DAY. AFTER GRADUATING THE ACADEMY, EACH FIREFIGHTER TESTS FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ACCREDITATION CONGRESS (IFSAC) FIREFIGHTER AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CERTIFICATIONS. A PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL RECOGNIZING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AS A FIREFIGHTER.

RECRUITS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR CLASSROOM LECTURES BY COMPLETING ALL ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO THAT DAYS INSTRUCTION. BECAUSE THE SCHEDULE IS DYNAMIC, ALL EQUIPMENT, BOOKS AND UNIFORMS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO WORK EVERY DAY REGARDLESS OF THE EXPECTED SCHEDULE.

WITH FLU SEASON RAPIDLY APPROACHING, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO PREVENT/TREAT YOUR ILLNESS. PREVENTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO ILLNESS. GETTING YOUR FLU SHOT WILL HELP PREVENT/SPREAD THE VIRUS. SECOND, AND AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WASH YOUR HANDS! PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION BY USING SOAP AND WATER REGULARLY. NOW, YOU'VE DONE ALL THE PREVENTION, BUT YOU STILL GOT SICK, SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP TREAT YOUR COLD?

1. **DRINK FLUIDS**—DON'T LET YOURSELF GET DEHYDRATED!
2. **BE A COUCH POTATO**—GET YOUR REST. THIS HELPS YOUR BODY FIGHT INFECTION.
3. **TRY A WARM COMPRESS**—ON THE FOREHEAD AND NOSE TO RELIEVE HEADACHE AND SINUS PAIN.
4. **IBUPROFEN/TYLENOL**—ALTERNATE THESE MEDICATIONS, TAKING THEM EVERY TWO HOURS AS NEEDED FOR FEVER/PAIN.
5. **GO TO THE ER IF**—YOUR FEVER GETS ABOVE 103°F, YOU HAVE TROUBLE BREATHING WHILE

Cold or Flu?

	Cold	Flu
ONSET	Gradual, over a day or more.	Sudden, within a day and sometimes even hours.
FEVER	Low or none.	High temps are common, often over 100°F.
SEVERITY	Mild to moderate.	More severe.
SYMPTOMS	Sore or scratchy throat, then a runny or stuffed nose, sneezing, and finally a cough.	Chills, dry cough, fever, headache, severe muscle aches, stuffy nose, sore throat, extreme fatigue, weakness.

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RIVERSIDE

FIRE RESCUE

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THE DISPATCH

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

THIS EDITION
WINTER FIRE SAFETY
SANTA IS COMING TO YOU!
MEET YOUR NEW FIRE CHIEF
FLU SHOTS
HELP US RECRUIT

