



Riverside Fire Authority
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www.riversidefire.net
 &
 follow us on Facebook
 and Twitter!

STANDARD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 TACOMA, WA
 PERMIT #317

ECRWSS
 Residential Customer

*Committed to creating safer communities through
 prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.*

Safety Tool Below!

Cut out the free tool below for a handy reminder of measurement conversions and kitchen safety that you can keep on your fridge.



GREASE FIRE?!

EXTINGUISH A GREASE FIRE BY TAKING AWAY THE OXYGEN THAT FEEDS THE FLAME. KEEP A POT LID HANDY TO COVER THE PAN AND SUFFOCATE THE FLAME OR DOUSE THE FLAME WITH BAKING SODA OR SALT.



PUT A LID ON IT



**BAKING SODA
 or SALT**



NO WATER!

SPRAYING WATER ON A GREASE FIRE CAN CAUSE THE FLAMING DROPLETS OF GREASE TO SPLATTER AND ACTUALLY SPREAD THE FIRE.

KITCHEN CONVERSIONS



Questions? Call your fire department, Riverside Fire Authority: 360-736-3975



January 2021

Fire & Life Safety News

from the Riverside Fire Authority



Commissioner
 Lee Coumbs

RFA : A Cost-effective Service Model

How We Better Serve Our Citizens with a Combination of Paid and Volunteer Personnel

It was my privilege last July to attend a ceremony honoring volunteer staff in their advancement. As I was listening to the hours of training, testing and service required to gain these positions, what impressed me the most was recognizing the family names of former or current firefighters and volunteers. Young people following in their family's footsteps is a part of our culture in Centralia.



Operating with only 20 paid Firefighters over the last six years, the RFA depends on our volunteers to create the support needed to provide backup and meet safety requirements. About 90% of our calls are concentrated in the city of Centralia but when there are calls in our rural areas the response time would suffer greatly without our volunteers. In these events it is many times a neighbor, who volunteers with the RFA, who is first to arrive at your side while the paramedics are in transit. The six young men and women pictured above were being honored for completing their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and we are pleased to report that seven more volunteers recently received their EMS certification. We currently have around 50 volunteers and about half of them are EMT's, capable of providing life-saving care to patients suffering illness or trauma. This provides additional manpower at the emergency scene and backfills our staffed stations to respond to incoming emergencies.

Recently, the RFA received a three-year FEMA grant to hire four Firefighters replacing half of the personnel we were forced to lay off in 2015. Funding for the positions, when the grant expires, is included in our strategic plan without the need for additional special levies. After a competitive testing and interview process the applicants selected for hire are all coming from within our present or former volunteer ranks so they will be ready to serve quickly. We are proud of the leadership in the RFA that has created the opportunity for volunteers to advance in continued volunteer service or possible career opportunities.



Paramedic/ EMT salaries as well as medical supplies, equipment and training are supported by the EMS Levy, due for renewal this year. Please watch for your ballot and be sure to vote in the February 2021 special election.

What's Inside

Front Page:

*A message from
 Commissioner, Lee Coumbs*

Inside:

*Career and Volunteer Staff
 Biographies*

*RFA Seeks Voter Approval of
 continued EMS Levy*

*Welcome Fire Marshal,
 Kevin Anderson*

Senior Safety

Tot Topics

Back Page:

Kitchen Safety Tool



FIREFIGHTER FEATURE: A LOOK AT THE RFA MEMBERS WHO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY



Tim Shellenberger has volunteered as the Chaplain for the RFA since 2013. "I was raised in a family that cultivated great respect for our military and civil authority which definitely laid a foundation for me," says Tim. Serving on staff at a large church in Seattle for nine years, he wasn't able to find the time to pursue his interest in the chaplaincy until moving his family to Centralia to plant a church in

2010. After a chance encounter with the RFA's then fire chief, he decided to pursue this interest with our organization. "What I have noticed to be unique about RFA is our striving for excellence. Though we do not have abundant resources, there is a sense of creative excellence to serve the community that I appreciate."

Pastor Tim's church (Centralia Bible Baptist) is now well established and his family of six with wife Christie is busy and active. Life is full but Tim always finds time to check in on his RFA family and is ready to show up on those tough calls when personnel or patients need some extra support. For Tim, the reward lies in the opportunity to help others.

Captain Tim Adolphsen has been with our organization since it's inception, having started with the Centralia Fire Department in February 1987. After growing up in Lewis County, he started his firefighting career as a volunteer for the Chehalis Fire Department in 1981 and by 1982 was also a volunteer for L.C. Fire District 6.

"My first day as a volunteer, Chehalis had a fire at a furniture store," says Adolphsen. "My job was to hold a generator from vibrating away. I was hooked." He began testing at various departments and taking advantage of any classes or training offered. In the summer of 1986 Tim tested for the City of Centralia and came out number one, accepting their job offer soon after. He was promoted to Driver/Engineer in 1988, then to Captain in 1995 and stayed with the department through its transition to the RFA and after. In addition to his position as Captain, Tim serves the department by helping to maintain the vehicle fleet spread out among our 8 stations. His experience and leadership is an invaluable asset on scene and off.



Welcome Fire Marshal, Kevin Anderson

In March of 2020 the Riverside Fire Authority had to say goodbye to Fire Marshal Rick Mack who retired after 32 years of service with our organization. While our department and community hated to see him go, Chief Mack made sure to leave his position in capable hands. Kevin Anderson now serves as the department's Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal and spent the first six months of his employment working alongside his predecessor.

Chief Anderson joined our agency after 11 years with Lewis County Fire District 15, in Winlock, nine of which he served as the Assistant Fire Chief and District Secretary. He ventured into the fire service in 2002 as a volunteer Firefighter/ EMT for FD15, the same department his grandfather had earlier served as Fire Chief. Anderson enjoyed serving the community in which he was born and raised and gained valuable experience making him an asset to the RFA. "I had a great time at FD15 helping to progress my hometown fire department from an all volunteer agency into a combination agency with career and volunteer staff, much the same as here at RFA. The improvements I was a part of there helped to greatly strengthen the ability to provide service to the community and that will always be something I take great pride in. I am very grateful to have had that opportunity."

After accepting the position, Anderson moved into Centralia with his wife Kimmy and their 3-yr-old son. He is excited for what the future holds here at Riverside Fire and the opportunity for growth that comes along with it. "One of the things I find most intriguing about RFA is the diversity of our service area. We serve areas of dense population to vast rural expanses and everything in between. We have target hazards that range from large industrial structure to multi-story residential apartments and single family residences. We protect infrastructure that include multiple rail lines, I-5 and large diameter pipelines. We have multiple areas that can be impacted by river conditions. There is no shortage of areas and scenarios to prepare and plan for."

Though his first year with the RFA was far from a conventional year, Assistant Chief Anderson has been welcomed into the department and the community and looks forward to meeting and serving those of you he has not yet met.



Watch the mailbox for your February 2021 Ballot.

PROPOSITION NO. 1 asks voters to consider the continuation of the existing EMS tax levy at a rate not to exceed \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property

The RFA Seeks Voter Approval on Continuation of the EMS Levy

Last voted on in 2015, the RFA's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy has paid the majority of the cost of providing rapid response to medical emergencies in the community we serve. The levy cannot exceed \$0.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value and must be approved by the voters. EMS levies run for 6 years after approval and February's ballot will contain a proposition for the renewal of Riverside's EMS levy.

Over the life of the current levy, the RFA has responded to 18,198 medical emergencies in unincorporated NW Lewis County and the City of Centralia.

The EMS levy supports all RFA EMS responders by paying for:

- ⇒ Eight fulltime dual role paramedic/ EMT positions (dual role means the personnel are qualified as firefighters and EMS workers)
- ⇒ EMS vehicles and their maintenance and replacement
- ⇒ Ongoing training for all RFA EMS personnel
- ⇒ Dispatch fees
- ⇒ Medical Equipment—including heart monitors and advanced life support equipment and supplies

Since 2015 the EMS levy has funded:

- ⇒ The remount of the 2010 Ambulance,
- ⇒ 2 Life-Pack15 heart monitors,
- ⇒ 2 power lift cots, advanced airway kits,
- ⇒ EMS training and certification of 15 volunteer personnel







**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMS LEVY
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:**

www.riversidefire.net

SENIOR SAFETY

The RFA responds to approximately 450 fall emergencies annually. These incidents can have a lasting effect on the mobility and overall health for individuals above the age of 65. Take the steps to make your home safe from tripping hazards and protect your health. The CDC recommends these "four things YOU can do to prevent falls." (www.cdc.gov/steady/)


-  **Have your healthcare provider review your medicines.**
-  **Exercise to improve your balance and strength.**
-  **Have your eyes and feet checked.**
-  **Make your home safer.**

TOT TOPICS

With the many impacts of COVID19 there has been growing concern over the mental health of our children and teens. Washington's Department of Health urges family members and friends to be vigilant in keeping an eye out for signs of depression &/or thoughts of suicide.

For a list of warning signs and resources available, visit: www.doh.wa.gov

Click on the left hand link to → You and Your Family → Injury and Violence Prevention → Suicide Prevention

 **Lewis County Crisis Line: 1-800-803-8833**
Teen Link: 1-866-833-6546

Crisis Text Line: Text HEAL to 741741
Teen Link: 1-866-833-6546



If you are concerned for your safety or the safety of others please call 911 immediately.