

News from the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2017.02.01

Our February meeting took place on Feb. 1, 2017 at 7pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. Work continues on applications for grants. We need to replace our SCBA units and we are hoping to be awarded a grant to do this. Medical equipment expires and needs to be replaced regularly. I am sure that everyone has heard about the Epi-Pen price controversy. Our department carries epinephrine in case one of our residents or visitors has an allergic reaction, so these high prices affect us also. Our department responded to 4 calls in January. 3 of these calls were for accidents on Highway 53. Pay attention when driving! Your life can be changed in an instant! Our Rescue 4 truck had to be taken out of service on January 26, after a call, when it stalled for the last time and could not be resuscitated. It has been in service for over 30 years! We were able to get a loaner blue crew cab pick-up from the DNR that we are using for our rescue vehicle now. But this vehicle is only a temporary fix. We still need a proper rescue vehicle. We were able to purchase a Freightliner at a good price from the DNR. This vehicle will be converted to a much needed tanker. This will require a lot of work to accomplish. If this kind of work interests you, please join our department! We need people who like to work on trucks!

If you came to the Melrude Winter Frolic on Feb. 18, you saw our vehicles. Our department staged at the Frolic to be available in case of any injury. Thankfully, no one was injured and all who attended seemed to enjoy themselves despite the lack of snow for sliding on the hill. Many children enjoyed climbing up into our Freightliner and pulling the cord for its loud horn. They also enjoyed climbing into our Engine and pretending to be a fireman. Our Rescue vehicle, as well as our rescue equipment, was on display. We had coloring books, crayons, brochures, fire safety booklets, bookmarks, and candy available to all who attended. Our fire department also provided the ingredients to make S'mores.

We are hoping to recruit some members for our department. Many children want to sign up! However, you need to be 18 years old. Many people feel that they have no time to give to our department. Yet, you can put in as little time or as much as you want. We have a business meeting once a month. There is at least 1 training session each month. We average about 25 calls each year. We have members who only attend the monthly meetings, those who only like to work on vehicles, those who only like fires, those who only like medical calls, and those who want to do it all. We have something to interest anyone! We provide training for you that is free. There are retirement benefits and mileage reimbursements. This is a volunteer department, which means that the members give freely of their own time. When you see us responding to an accident on the highway or putting out that brush fire encroaching on your home, remember that those responding have chosen to do so. There is no work schedule or time clock. Sometimes everyone on the department is around. Sometimes no one is available. Many work full or part time, have families to care for, and other obligations that take priority. Because of this, some members are only available during the day while others are only available at night. This is why we need to have many members. We want the residents and visitors of Ellsburg to be safe. We want someone in our department to be available at all times. This can only be accomplished when a department has many members. Volunteering is admirable, and looks good on your resume`. Helping others in need gives you a warm feeling of accomplishment. What if your house caught fire and nobody was available to respond? As a member of our department, you would have access to the equipment and could help yourself. What if a family member suffered a heart attack? You could save their life. What if volunteers didn't volunteer?

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD

