

News from the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2017.07.05

Our July meeting took place on July 5, 2017 at 7pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. We discussed our participation in the Ellsburg Parade and Picnic which took place on July 1. We had a display table with a lot of things to give away for the children. Things like Dalmatians, fire hats, coloring books, firefighter stress toys, rulers, posters, candy, crayons, and pencils disappeared quickly. There were informational brochures about fire safety, home escape plans, smoke detectors, and wildfires. We displayed our vacuum splints and Mustang ice rescue suits. There was a signup sheet for the free smoke detectors that the Red Cross is providing. Our vehicles were on display. We hope that those who won the firefighter kids raffle basket and the boat raffle really enjoy them. It was the games, however, that I think everyone enjoyed most. We had a water shooter game with a pool full of water that needed to be refilled several times. Our firefighters challenged the Cotton firefighters in the keg game. Then several spectators had a chance to suit up in firefighter gear and aim the hoses at the keg. Our engines pumped 2300 gallons of water that day! What fun we all had! Next year, we will round up some smaller sized gear so more people of all sizes can play.

Our next event will be National Night Out on August 1 from 6pm - 9pm. This will take place at our Bass Lake Firehall on 1102 Mink Road. We will grill brats and have several side dishes also. There will be a variety of homemade desserts. We will have some games and giveaways and demonstrations. Most of us have fire extinguishers in our homes, but have you ever used one? We will have some available, and maybe a little fire also, so that you can practice using one before you have an emergency. Everyone knows that CPR means pushing down on someone's chest to get the circulation going. The American Heart Association teaches us to perform 100 compressions per minute. If you are going to do rescue breathing also, then perform 30 compressions followed by 2 rescue breaths and repeat. There are classes that train people to do CPR. But what if someone you know needs CPR and you are not trained? You can still save a life by doing compressions only. Come to our firehall on August 1. We will show you how and let you practice on a mannequin.

Grilling is the most popular way to cook food in the summertime. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that an average of 8,900 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues occur each year in the USA. These fires cause an average of 3,900 structure fires, 5,100 outside fires, 10 civilian deaths, 160 civilian injuries, and \$118 million in direct property damage. 83% of the grills involved are fueled by gas. The three leading causes of grill fires are: 1. failure to clean the grill regularly, 2. grilling too close to something that could catch fire, and 3. leaving the grill unattended. Leaks and breaks are a problem with gas grills. Check your gas tank hose regularly for leaks by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. If bubbles are seen, there is a propane leak. If you smell gas or see bubbles, but there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get your grill professionally serviced. If the leak does not stop, call 911 for the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call 911. If your flame goes out while cooking, turn both the grill and gas off for at least five minutes before re-lighting it. Make sure that the lid of your gas grill is open before you light it. Remove the grease buildup from the grills and trays below the grills to help avoid fire. When using a charcoal grill, never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to a fire. Let the coals cool completely before you dispose of them in a metal container. Grills should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, overhanging branches, and out from under the eaves. Use an extension cord for electric charcoal starters so that you can keep a distance away from the house. Children and pets should stay at least three feet away from the grill. The NFPA reports that 16,600 patients were seen in emergency rooms in 2014 because of injuries involving grills. More than half of these injuries were thermal burns. One-third of these thermal burns were suffered by children. Following these safety guidelines will help make your cookout an enjoyable event. But if a fire starts, don't hesitate to call 911. We'll be there...especially if there is something good on the grill!

