



Benton County Fire District #1

101108 E. Badger Rd | Kennewick, WA 99338 | 509-737-0911
www.BentonOne.org | Facebook.com/bcfire | X @BentonFire1PIO

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF



Chief Scott LoParco

Happy holidays from Benton County Fire District #1! This is my favorite time of year to reconnect with friends and family. I hope you have the opportunity to do the same.

BCFD#1 had a busy year, and I want to report back to you – our taxpayers – on projects we have completed. For example, we refurbished one water tender, saving taxpayers money instead of buying new. We will refurbish another next year, too.

We did have to buy some fire engines to replace those that aged out of service, but we paid for them with existing budget dollars.

This means we did not have to ask voters for a bond to finance these purchases.

We also hired a facilities maintenance person. This position, in addition to our diesel mechanic, is part of our strategic plan to extend the usable lives of our stations and emergency apparatus.

Call volumes have increased 35.6% overall in five years. In that same time period, EMS calls have increased 51.3%. More calls mean added costs for apparatus, emergency personnel, medical equipment and supplies, fuel, and utilities – and those costs are higher due to inflation. (For example, a fire engine that cost \$600,000 four years ago is now close to \$1 million.)

BCFD#1 is discussing a possible fire levy lid lift for 2025 continue providing you with the best possible emergency services and response. This will be a public process, and we hope you will take part. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

BCFD#1 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Benton County Fire District #1 serves residents and visitors over 320 square miles. The District offers fire suppression, emergency medical response, and hazardous materials assistance.

We operate six fire stations, a fire training center, and an administrative office with a dedicated team of around 100 people – most of whom are volunteers. Volunteering with us means joining a respected group that values safety, training and community impact.

Volunteers enjoy benefits such as training classes, a relief and pension fund, life insurance, and reimbursement for expenses during responses and training. Our commitment to safety includes monthly safety meetings and weekly training sessions, with flexible daytime and evening drills.

If active firefighting isn't for you, consider joining our Support Services team. This critical group assists with incident management and responder well-being during emergencies like wildland fires, floods, and public events.

Our volunteers must be 18, have a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, and reside within 10 miles of a District station. If you have a strong work ethic and a desire to serve your community, apply today at www.bentonone.org.



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HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDER

We hope our community members fill their homes with holiday cheer this season – and we hope they do it safely. Many common holiday habits and decorations are also hazards. Remember these basic tips to keep you and your neighbors out of harm's way.

- ◆ Put candles on stable surfaces, and never leave burning candles unattended.
- ◆ Don't burn candles near trees or other holiday decorations.
- ◆ Replace strings of lights that have worn or broken cords.
- ◆ Turn off decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- ◆ If you have a fireplace, have a professional inspect and clean the chimney annually.
- ◆ Don't burn trees, wreaths, or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- ◆ Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure flames and cinders are out before going to bed.
- ◆ Test your smoke alarms and install new batteries if needed.



For more information, visit www.BentonOne.org