



**WE TRAIN YOU - FIRE, RESCUE & EMT**

**SAFEGUARD YOUR COMMUNITY • JOIN TODAY**

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one of the most fulfilling, respected, and financially lucrative careers available. An opportunity for a career in Firefighting and EMS has never looked brighter. Many of the original FFs/EMTs/Paramedics are now looking at retirement leaving a huge void to fill in the very near future.

Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 4 pays for your training, gear, equipment, and supplies etc. We are not like many organizations that require you to purchase everything. Additionally, you will receive a “reimbursement”, currently \$18, every time you respond, and for every drill or training you attend. This is paid out annually and arrives at a great time of the year—just before the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays. There are also ways to get paid for taking “on call” duty shifts that can add up nicely every month. Finally, our volunteers are eligible for a retirement package after serving a certain amount of time. For some, this can be financially significant.

A lesser discussed but priceless benefit of the training is that it is permanent and portable. Your ability to

save a life is not confined to your time responding to emergencies within the district. No matter where you are or what you are doing, these skills are in your head. There can be, and often are, times when you are traveling, spending time with loved ones, and something unfortunate happens, or someone looks unwell. What you learn with us can give you the analytical and practical skills to know when to call for help and what to do until it arrives.



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**JOYCE FIRE AND RESCUE  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: BE A PART OF THE TEAM**



## Greetings from the Chief:

It has been quite an interesting year to say the least. I intend to complete this newsletter without using the “C” word. We are all tired of dealing with the pandemic, determined to move forward, and stay focused on the future. Remain vigilant, do what you know deep-down is right, and protect your neighbors and family. We will get through this. Enough said, let’s move on.



Chief Greg Waters

I have recently been diagnosed with **Polymorphic Exclamation Pointitis** or **PEP**. Although serious, very few suffer any severe, long-term consequences, especially if caught early.

A dear friend of mine, Dr. H., says I need to admit I have a problem and accept the fact I have *used too many exclamation points* in my previous newsletters. Arguing with her proved futile.

I pleaded that it was impossible to talk about the phenomenally dedicated volunteers we have, the incredibly supportive and appreciative community we serve, the unprecedented times we currently find ourselves in, and the record breaking numbers of emergencies we have responded to this past year without using exclamation points.

Like scholars often do, she broke out the Latin and proclaimed, “*res ipsa loquitur*”. Yeah, I had to Google it too.

### Calling all Volunteers

The focus of this newsletter is on volunteering with our Fire District. Last week, I attended two 911 calls that ended eerily similar to each other. One dispatch was to an elderly gentleman who had some very serious life-threatening health issues. The other call was to a fire.

Toward the end of both of these events, the same question was posed to me by the families, “*What would we do without you guys?*”

I’m sure the question was meant to be rhetorical in nature and simply a way of saying thank you, but if you think about it, what is the answer? What would happen if we didn’t have these dedicated and highly trained volunteers to answer the 911 calls? I’m not sharing this to get accolades for our district, but rather to stir something inside you that helps you realize that maybe, just maybe, you also could help.

My goal is that out of all the Joyce residents who are reading this, five of you will answer this call to action, step up, and look into becoming volunteers with us. The number of 911 dispatches continues to increase and we need more responders.

### We need your help (So wanted to add an exclamation point here)

Our district finished 2021 with 364 emergency dispatches. This is a new record...by quite a bit. This is essentially one emergency response per day. That wouldn’t be too taxing to a fully staffed city fire department, but for a volunteer district it presents quite a challenge. We are rapidly approaching saturation with our existing volunteers. Mathematically we must ask more of our existing volunteers...or add more volunteers. Frankly, the bulk of your district’s volunteers are working as hard as they possibly can and are approaching the point of having nothing more to give.

I’ve often heard, “*I’ve been thinking of coming down and talking with you about volunteering*”. I know many of you have thought about it, but it’s hard to take the first step; picking up the phone or coming by for a visit. What I’ve learned from talking with most of you is that it isn’t usually a “NO” but rather it’s a “KNOW”. Please take the time to learn more about us. You would be surprised at how you can fit in.

### If not you, who?

“*What would we do without you?*” As a community, “you” ARE “we”. Joyce Fire district volunteers are your neighbors, perhaps your friends, even your family members.

## Top Questions and Thoughts Regarding Volunteering...

### “I would love to help, but I don’t know anything about Firefighting or Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Is prior experience necessary?”

Excellent question and probably the one we get the most. Very few of our volunteers come to us with any prior experience. We send our volunteers to state and nationally approved training programs which provide the skills and certifications needed to be a member of our team. These programs are the same classes that career firefighters and EMTs go through. No corners are cut just because you are a volunteer. Bottom line, we can’t train desire, motivation or initiative, that’s on you, but we can provide the education to help you become a certified and licensed firefighter and/or EMT.

### What if I am only interested in being an EMT?

Excellent question as well. From a credentialing and licensing standpoint, you can be an EMT only, a Firefighter only, or both—your choice. The reality is we are all a big happy team and everybody helps everybody within the limits of their license, training, desire, and abilities.

### I’d love to help but I’m retired and too old?

Let’s nip this in the bud right now. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Just so you know, the average age of our emergency responders is 50. Aging has its challenges, but it’s better than the alternative. Our most prolific volunteer responders are between 50 and 70. Age brings life experiences, discipline, mentoring ability, and probably a great work ethic as well—all critically important to what we do.

Some people work hard all their lives and finally make it to retirement only to find it’s not all it’s cracked up to be. Retirement can sometimes leave a person feeling idle and yearning for something more fulfilling.

Retirement generally allows a person more flexibility with their time. You may be able to help us respond to weekday calls—the toughest time period to cover. Please don’t let your age be a perceived hindrance.

There is also a new rule out that allows rural volunteer fire districts like our to bring on members just to drive our ambulances for us. After some initial training in driving emergency vehicles and obtaining a CPR certification, you could become a critical part of the team. Often times a driver is all we need.

At least check us out. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. There is a niche for virtually everyone.

### Can I help by volunteering without responding to emergencies?

Emphatically, yes. If you don’t want to be involved in emergency responses but have some time and just want to

help, please call us. We have several volunteers that help us without responding to emergencies. Let’s talk. Also consider looking into the Joyce Fire Auxiliary, the Joyce Emergency Planning and Preparation Group, or the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). All three groups work closely with us to achieve goals that support and protect our community. Please call our administration office and we can put you in touch with the right people to answer any questions you may have.

### How do people find the time to volunteer with you?

This one takes some introspection on your part. We all have the same 24 hour days and yet it is amazing how some people seem to accomplish so much more in their lives. It usually comes down to motivation, organization, and priorities. Look at how you spend your day. Jobs and family obligations are real and can be very time consuming. Still, how many hours daily are you watching TV, internet news, Netflix, or other streaming services? All are fine in moderation, but is it increasingly taking up your time?

I would venture to say that most of you fundamentally wish to help others. One way to do so is to commit some of your time to volunteering with us.

### How much time is required of the emergency response volunteers?

Most of the time is spent training or going on calls. We ask that our volunteers strive to make 60% of our drills and 10% of our calls. Drills are held every Tuesday night from 6-8PM, so 60% works out to about 5 hours a month. This past year we had 364 calls. Ten percent is 3 or 4 calls per month. An average call lasts three hours, so add another 9 to 12 hours a month there. Your initial training time varies according to your interest. Please call us or come in so we can go over those options as well. It is very doable for most.

### What, if any, benefits are included as a volunteer with the district?

The benefits are both intangible and tangible. Most people volunteer with us knowing they are not going to get rich. The terms I usually hear are things like camaraderie, a purpose in life, a sense of fulfillment, and a challenge. It gives you a chance to learn a new skill and help support our community. You cannot know how rewarding this opportunity can be until you have responded to an emergency and realize you truly made a difference in someone’s life.

For those men and women still looking to pick a career path, volunteering with us can set you up for

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### Incredible Achievement... 221 CALLS

Congratulations to our newest *Volunteer of the Year*, **Krista Smith**, who appeared out of the blue and took our district by storm. Krista *made every drill* throughout the year and went on an unbelievable 221 calls, closely approaching the record held by four-time Volunteer of the Year, Carolyn Flint. *Thank you both.*

### Actual Lives Saved... WOW

As FFs/EMTs/Paramedics we all like to think we are saving lives every day. The fact is we don’t (but please don’t tell our mothers). Every year we go through all the calls we’ve responded to and carefully pick out those calls where we do know, without a doubt, we genuinely saved a life. Every district responder involved receives a commemorative gold-colored coin engraved with their name, the date of the call, and the type of call it was. This year, I am pleased to announce we had nine such incidents, resulting in thirty-nine coins engraved for the volunteers who responded. For such a small community, that is truly outstanding. Thank you, Joyce Volunteers.

### Management Excellence Award... Best in State

I am very proud to announce that once again, Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 4’s Fire Commissioners achieved **First Place in the Management Excellence Award** in our category. The award is from the Washington State Fire Commissioners Association. It is an independent and objective affirmation of the quality of people you elected to run and oversee our district. Criteria is based on district administrative participation and education, facilities and equipment, public education, volunteer retention programs and community service. Way to go Team.

### New Home For Our Rigs... Coming soon

We continue to methodically move forward, exploring the possibilities of building a new apparatus bay next to our administrative building. We have just teamed up with a local architectural and engineering firm that will be working with us over the next several months to determine placement, size, cost considerations, and ultimately a final design. We are excited to see how this will all come together.

### COME SAY HI AND GET TO KNOW US!

*Stop by for a cup of coffee or tea or a bottle of water! We want to you to feel at home. We are always here for you!*

**Call for appointment. 360-928-3132**

**Visit our website at  
www.clallamfire4.org**

**and check our video on serving your community**