



SPOKANE TRIBAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMS – FIRE



POST OFFICE BOX 130 WELLPINIT, WA 99040-0130
509-258-4569 (DISPATCH) 509-625-3545 (FAX)

DECEMBER 2022

Tribal Members:

I would like to inform the general membership what the Spokane Tribal EMS/Fire program has been up to since the last general council report.

The EMS Program is scheduling an Emergency Medical Technician class to start sometime in February 2023 that will tentatively be held one day during the week for 4 hours and on Saturday for 8 hours. These dates will be posted for those interested. The classes generally are around 12 weeks in length. The individual price for this training has not been determined.

This will be an opportunity for those that believe they can perform the duties as an EMT for them to obtain the training and join the program that has been in existence for around 40 years.

The Department is continuously looking for individuals that may already be Licensed as an EMT through the State to become part of the "On-Call" staff that generally assist in providing coverage for the program when the regular full-time staff take time off. The shifts are generally 24-hour shifts, The department now has separate sleeping quarters for the crew as well as a full-service kitchen, living quarters upstairs as well as Wi-Fi capabilities.

The Fire Department is in the process of working with Stevens County Fire Protection Districted 1, which is the fire district adjacent to the east end of the reservation on entering into a Mutual Aid agreement for Fire incidents. This is also an opportunity to open the door for the Department to have instructors or availability to obtain training that is recognized by the State in fire suppression activities. Earlier this Year there were some training sessions that were arranged through Airway Heights Fire Department where about half a dozen local individuals had attended these classes. This Mutual Aid would also be in addition to the earlier training that was received. It is also an opportunity for any individual who is interested in becoming a Fire Fighter for the Tribe or other outlying agency/department to get the needed training to reach this goal.

As with the EMS program, the Fire Department is continuously looking for volunteers to become part of the department and serve the community and Tribe.

COVID-19 Updates: Although almost all the restrictions have been relaxed throughout the State and the numbers have dramatically been reduced as to the active cases on and near the Reservation, there are still some cases popping up. The mass mailings of "COVID-19 Home Test" by the Federal Government has in essence come to a halt. The Washington State Department of Health continues to allow residents to obtain up to 10 home test per household per month. The website is <http://doh.wa.gov> which will bring you to the State main website. On this home page there is a box that reads "Say Yes Covid Test" that if you click on this box, it will bring you to the link to order home test kits. You can order 1 or 2 units (5 or 10 individual test) to have them mailed to you directly, generally within a few days. These tests are free and can be ordered monthly.

There have been other health issues that have been affecting area residents on and near the Reservation which include the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RVS) as well as the Influenza (flu). These illnesses have had an increase in hospitalizations, that have affected the very young as well as the elderly. It is important for each of us to practice the good hygiene that we've used during the pandemic to avoid the spread of these illnesses. It is also important not to confuse these illnesses with COVID-19 and if you're not feeling well, stay home and limit your contact with other members of the household as well as the general public.

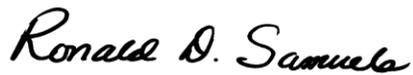
With the winter weather among us now, it is really important for us to watch out for our family members, especially those who may need assistance with snow removal, bringing in firewood, pellets, or other supplies for heating their homes. We need to assure that those that may become vulnerable to the weather events, that they're checked on at regular intervals to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Reminder, as a result of the colder weather, people are using their wood burning stoves more frequently which also increases the potential of chimney fires occurring as a result of increase of creosote in the stove pipe. Remember to have the chimney cleaned regularly based on how often you use the stove.

Using Space Heaters is also a matter that can create severe damage, injury or worse if used inappropriately. Remember to have these units properly placed away from flammable products such as furniture, drapes, Christmas decorations, etc. It is highly discouraged to have these units in use when no one is present. Do not use these devices in confined spaces due to the higher risk of causing fire and it is highly suggested that extension cords never be used. Always plug into a proper receptacle (outlet).

Please visit your local energy company for other safety tips to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

If you have any questions regarding this department, please use the above number or you can contact me directly at 509-625-3512.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald D. Samuels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald D. Samuels, Director