

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House for new Fire Hall being Planned

Volunteer Photo board to be displayed at Fire Hall

Bulletin Board to be installed outside Fire Hall

Training Room equipment order to be completed.

Orientation Fire Drill at CRCC scheduled for July

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City of Connell Fire Department/Franklin Co. FD #1

Newsletter

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Wildland 'Fire School' Scheduled

Wildland Fire training has been scheduled to occur for the City of Connell Fire Department and Franklin County Fire District 1. The first block of training will occur on May 11th, during the next regularly scheduled Fire training night and will be followed by an additional 8 sessions ending on July 14th.

An Interagency cadre has been assembled from The US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Hermiston, Franklin Co. Fire District #4, and the City of Connell. The courses presented will all be NWCG and Washington State Department of Natural Resources compliant. Firemen that complete all the required training will be certified as Wildland Fire Fighter 2 (FFT2). Cooperators that are interested in having any of their personnel attend this Wildland training opportunity will be able to do so.

Fire Prevention Business Inspections to Proceed

City of Connell Fire Department will launch Fire Prevention Building Inspections in May 2011. Preparations are complete and Chief Schulte will begin the inspections by visiting members of the Chamber of Commerce. While attending the chamber dinner in February Chief Schulte was approached by a couple of members and decided at that time to start with this organized group of local businesses. The preparation efforts to date have involved; 1.) numerous visits and work sessions with Kennewick Fire Marshal, 2.) attendance at WABO (Washington State Building Officials) training in Seattle, 3.) compiling Fire Chief uniform components, 4.) receiving and studying International Fire Codes, and 5.) acquiring, modifying and ordering an Inspection Document. It is the Fire Department's intention to establish an schedule that visits all inspection candidates prior to December of 2011.

Franklin County Fire Chiefs Weaving Mutual Aid 'FABRIC'

Franklin County Fire Chiefs from all county cities and Fire Districts have organized a monthly Chiefs meeting. There have been 3 meetings to date. The group of chiefs are going to keep the monthly gathering on the calendar. The meeting provides a great forum for discussing mutually beneficial items that will assist emergency response personnel in Franklin Co and in adjacent jurisdictions. The next meeting is set for May 31st. The meeting agenda is consistent with that utilized by the Tri-Cities chiefs which have been meeting for years. Agenda format has been included to the right of this text.

Franklin County Chief's Meeting Agenda
Introductions
Guest Speaker-Monthly Key Note
Individual District News
Mutual Aid
Communications
Training
Emergency Management
Equipment Needs and Recent Purchases
Apparatus Needs and Recent Purchases
Good of the Order
Next Meeting?

City Of Connell Chief's Uniform Project Completed



Uniform for City of Connell Chief is now "In Service"

Designing, ordering and receiving delivery of all desired uniform components was completed near the end of April. The shoulder emblem (pictured to the right) took the longest to be completed. All components were ordered thru an established Fire Uniform Purchasing Consortium recently formalized in the Tri-Cities at a considerable savings to the city.



Fire Department/Fire District Goes to work on drill nights

Where there's a will there's a way; where there's a team, there's more than one way



The 2011 training season has been very productive. The City and County training nights have a new agenda format, '6 minutes for Safety', Opening Comments by both Chief's, visiting cadre/subject matter specialists, and occasional VIP quests. The meetings have been lively exchanges and valuable as the new TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More) gels. There is only an estimated 36 hours of regularly scheduled training a year, We aim to make the best of it.



Wireless Bridge Installation Completed at Fire Department

Fire Department Wireless Bridge mounted just above roof-line



City of Connell Information Technology (IT) Specialist, Mike Kessler (AKA, Chief of Police) has completed installation of the "Wireless Bridge" between the City Hall and the Fire Department Office. This technology provides direct wireless access to the City's Internet provider and filing system. No fuss, no muss installation went well at City Hall and the Fire Hall and the signal came booming in on the first test. The head of the IT department and assembled installation Task Force (Toby Cochrane, Jason Broberg, Chief Schulte) were all pretty darn pleased with the results.

Attack 41 - Ready for Action



In 2008, Franklin Co. FD #4 Chief Chet Bauermiester made plans to purchase a chassis for a mid range fire engine and over the years envisioned it being outfitted and added to the interagency emergency response program in Franklin County. Chief Bauermiester died in the line of duty fighting a natural cover fire on June 23rd, 2010, but his plans for "Attack 41" did not stop there. Cooperative efforts between Franklin Co. FD #1 and Franklin Co. FD #4 resulted in continued work on Chet's latest truck project. Fabrication of everything behind the cab and above the bed was completed by skilled volunteer fireman from both fire departments. "Attack 41" is on line and will see service during the 2011 fire season. "Attack 41" will be housed in and respond from Mesa as part of a cooperative arrangement with the City of Mesa.

Wildland Equipment Acquired

Chief Mauseth and Chief Schulte have recently teamed up to acquire a significant inventory of Wildland Fire gear. The collaborative efforts have provided the County and City Fire Departments with a substantial savings. The equipment was acquired through a combination of a wildland equipment grant with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and donations from Benton Co FD #1 and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. See photos below. Franklin Co. FD 4 also received some of the surplus items for their program.



Hardhats, Drip Torches, Nomex Fire Clothes, Handtools, Fireline Gear being serviced, inventoried and put into action.



Esquatel Coulee Prescribed Burn Implemented

City of Connell Public Works Department implemented their annual Prescribed Burn project, accomplishing 1.2 miles of the 2.4 miles planned. Unstable, moist weather patterns hampered scheduling leading into the burn. Resources from Public Works were aided during the burn by City of Connell Fire Department (Chief Schulte), Franklin Co FD #1 (2 engines/staff), Franklin Co FD #4 (1 engine/staff) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (two igniters). Results in the portion accomplished met the objectives and the project was performed safely and professionally. Public Works Director, Larry Turner and Fire Chief Schulte have discussed using the annual project for interagency fire training in future years.



Safety is Number One

Fire Fighter and Public Safety are the number one priority for the City of Connell and Franklin Fire District # 1. Both departments have initiated some new practices designed to teach and enforce a strong safety culture. Some but not all of these practices are: **After Action Reviews (AAR's), delivery of mandated Labor and Industry Training, development of a Health and Safety Handbook, a "6 minutes for Safety" portion at all training meetings, intensified Wildland Training courses, development of Standard Operating Guidelines, posting of information for all employees, and developing a professional atmosphere where open dialog and ideas can be exchanged and discussed...**