



# Monthly Report

**To:** Commissioners  
**From:** Chief John Nohr  
**Date:** September 13th, 2018  
**Re:** August Report

## **STRUCTURE FIRES KEEP CCFR CREWS BUSY**

CCFR crews responded to two significant structure fires just two days apart. On August 15<sup>th</sup> crews were dispatched to a house fire in the 29300 block of NW 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Upon arrival, E-24

reported a fully involved house fire with multiple vehicles burning and embers spreading to nearby fields. During a walk around the fire to assess the extent of the fire, the company officer found an injured person that had jumped from the second floor bedroom. The victim stated that another person was inside searching for pets. This started a series of attempts by fire crews to enter and locate the victim. Ultimately, a 23-year-old female died in the fire, as well as one dog. Firefighters rescued a dog from the second floor. Two adult males and a dog were able to escape the fire. Fire Investigators from the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office were unable to determine the source of ignition, but determined the fire started outside near an attached deck. CCFR was assisted on this incident by crews from Cowlitz County Fire District #1, Clark County Fire District #6, and the Vancouver Fire Department. Just two days later, CCFR responded to a house fire on NE Caples Street in La Center. Crews arrived to find that an outside deck fire had extended into the attic space of the home. Crews worked diligently to extinguish the fire and prevent further smoke or water damage to items in the home. CCFR was assisted by a crew from Clark County Fire District #6 on this fire. CCFR reminds citizens to have a working smoke alarm on all levels of your home and in each sleeping area.



## **TWO CCFR VOLUNTEERS LAND CAREER FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS**

Two CCFR volunteers have recently received offers of employment as career firefighters. Volunteer Kyle Ulsh started with CCFR in December 2104 and has been actively pulling shifts and assisting with community events over that time. FF Ulsh will be start the fire academy with the Vancouver Fire Department in early September. FF Joe Tigli started a one-year internship with CCFR in April 2018 to gain skills and experience as a firefighter, in an effort to compete for a career firefighter position. FF Tigli accepted a position with Pierce County Fire District 21 in Graham in late July. Congratulations and best of luck to Firefighters Ulsh and Tigli as they start their journey as career firefighters.

### **WASHINGTON PAID FAMILY LEAVE ACT**

CCFR Human Resources Support Specialist Christi Linn attended the first webinar training hosted by the Employment Security Department on the new Washington Paid Family Leave Act. PFML is a program passed by the Legislature in 2017. It offers workers the opportunity to receive partial wage replacement while on eligible medical leave or family leave. Premium deductions from employees will begin in January of 2019 and eligible employees can begin to apply for benefits in January of 2020. The cost of the premium is 0.04% of wages up to the social security cap. Generally, the employer is responsible for 37% and the employee 63%. Employers are responsible for collecting the employee share through payroll deduction and remitting the premium payment. This program is completely separate from the current federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as well as the WA Paid Sick Leave program.

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

CCF&R participated in National Night Out activities at Abram's Park in Ridgefield on August 7<sup>th</sup>. NNO is a nation-wide annual community building campaign that promotes community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make our communities safer, more caring places to live. While NNO is predominately a police-oriented event, CCF&R has been honored to be allowed to participate on an annual basis. This year Engine 24 and Special Rescue 24 were on display. Crew members provided tours of the equipment and provided information to citizens. Chief Nohr received positive comments from community members on the appearance of the equipment and the knowledge of the crews.

### **COWLITZ TRIBE RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO BUY FIRE ENGINE FOR CCFR**

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe was successful in obtaining a \$600,000 grant from the US Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new fire engine for CCFR. The grants are designed to help Indian tribes enhance their safety and emergency response capabilities. CCFR identified a new fire engine as a critical need in furthering that goal. CCFR provides fire and emergency response services to the Cowlitz Tribe reservation through a contract for service. The purchase of a new fire engine will help CCFR provide better response reliability throughout our full service area. In addition to the new fire engine, the Cowlitz Tribe also received grant money to purchase a police vehicle, enhance radio communications through CRESA, and develop emergency management guidelines. CCFR thanks the Cowlitz Tribe for the partnership and the opportunity to receive this critical piece of equipment.