



# SPOKANE TRIBAL EMERGENCY SERVICES EMS – FIRE



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JANUARY 2023

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. It has been tentatively determined that the classes will be held on Tuesdays evenings and all day on Saturdays starting in February. The exact start date hasn't been determined as of yet.

There will be an informational meeting possibly next week or the week after for those interested to go over what they can expect from the class and what will be expected of them.

As stated in previous information, everyone needs to help their Elderly Family members or aging neighbors during these recent snow/cold storms to make sure that they have adequate items, such as basic food items. Emergency supplies in case of power outages and they may need batteries for their flashlights, that they have emergency water supply, potential back-up heating source. There are the basics during any outage that our parents may not think of, but we all know it's better to have a plan than not to have a plan at all. Help your friends, family and the community.

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. 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: There has been little to no active cases to report since last report. There was unofficial information of one potential family affected by COVID-19, however, this never was received through the clinic.

There have been some Influenza and RSV cases reported and treated at the Clinic, however, because there is no tracking of the number of cases like there was during the high point for COVID-19. So it is difficult to report whether there is an increase in the numbers of either. The general rule of cleaning your hands, use social distancing when around other people and wash your hands often. You can also disinfect your surroundings several times a week.

Remember be safe when using fire wood, logs, pellets or portable space heaters during these cold days and help those around you.

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.

*Ronald D. Samuels*

Ronald D. Samuels, Director