

MANSON FIRE DEPT



November 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Manson Fire Department **Station #51** is located downtown across from the PUD swim park and marina. Leased from the Lake Chelan Reclamation District, the 3,100 sq. ft. space is situated beneath the Manson branch of the NCW Libraries. Equipment at the station comprises four vehicles: a structure-fire engine, a wildland-fire engine, a wildland-brush truck and the Chelan Health ambulance.

Station #52 is at 2010 Wapato Lake Road is currently 5650 sq.ft. The District purchased the original site in 1994 and built a station there in 1995. Two temporary living quarters were constructed in 2010 to house the EMS crew. An additional 3.3 acres were purchased in 2018 to allow for facilities that better serve our growing community.

Plans are coming together to construct an up-to-date **Fire Training Center** on the site from ten steel shipping containers beginning this fall. The innovative facility will stack up to three stories to accommodate two burn-training rooms, roof ventilation, a 3rd floor rope rescue prop and a non-fire rooms for other training scenarios. With a possible grant, plans are set for an additional 12-unit resident-housing complex. Projections are for additional fire truck bays, a medical storage room, a decontamination room, and an emergency helipad.



In 2021, the Manson Fire Department received a used Bronto aerial truck from the Verplank Fire Department in Upstate New York. Like Manson, Verplank is also a volunteer fire department located about 30 miles up the scenic Hudson River from New York City, therefore the Bronto was shipped to Manson on a lowboy transporter.

Although the Bronto boom was built in Finland, the chassis was built and fitted with the boom in New York. It finds a welcome home here on Lake Chelan in structural firefighting. By purchasing a used vehicle, the District saved more than \$1,000,000. According to Chief Arnold Baker, the Bronto may be the only aerial lift of its type in Washington state. “We appreciate the versatile capabilities of the Bronto platform,” Baker said.

Grant funded projects include a local Fire Training Center

A new **fire-training center** is forecast after Chelan Fire District #5 received a \$100,000 grant from Chelan County’s Cascade Public Infrastructure Fund. Construction of the center is expected to begin this fall, before inclement winter weather descends.

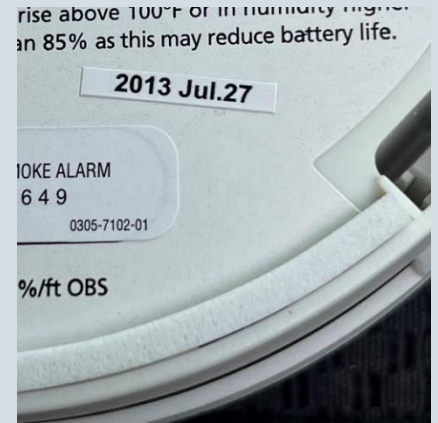
The Washington Department of Natural Resources also bestowed a \$50,000 grant to assist in building a multi-use **structure-protection** apparatus. Additional grant funding is being pursued to complete the build.

An award of \$200,000 was received from the Washington State Capital Budget for the design phase of new **resident quarters, training classrooms** and additional **fire truck** bays. Representative Mike Steele (R-12) was instrumental in assisting with the state grant. In FY 2024, the District will seek state funding for construction of the project before coming to the public for higher taxes. The Manson Fire District is sincerely aware of the current challenging economy and is a good steward of local tax funds.

It's Time to Check Your Smoke Alarms

“When you check your smoke alarms this fall, remember that the test button only tests the battery strength and the circuitry of the alarm – not the smoke sensor itself. Note; check the manufacture date on the back of any alarm to see if it exceeds ten years, the safe and reliable life of the alarm. Should you see that **if the alarm is older than ten years, it should be replaced,**” Fire Chief Arnold Baker said.

“If your alarms are hard-wired with a battery backup contact an electrician for replacement. If the alarms are battery powered, contact us at the Manson Fire District and we will assist you in replacing them. **Hearing a “beep” on an old alarm is false security.**”



A Profile of Manson’s Volunteer Firefighters: - 30 Active Personnel

In Retrospect - 2022 Incident Breakdown:

Total Calls: 579 incidents, Volunteers dispatched 186 times, Staffed EMS dispatched 393 times without Volunteers.

- 7 Building fires, 5 Vehicle fires, 4 Vegetation fires = **16 fires in Total.**
- 23 Vehicle accidents (fire and EMS) 79 medical incidents (fire and EMS) 346 Medical (Lake Chelan Health EMS only) = **448 Medical calls in Total.**
- 7 Hazardous conditions, 15 Unauthorized burning, 67 “Good intent calls”, 26 False alarms and other.

Volunteers Needed for Continued Success

The Chelan County Fire District #5 is dependent on community members who make a commitment to serve their friends and neighbors in Manson as volunteers. This community service can be much different, depending on the capabilities of the volunteer.

“We have openings for structure firefighters, wildland firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMS), water-tender truck drivers, public educators, and fire-prevention speakers. Some positions are easier than others – with several as firefighters and EMS technicians, requiring extensive training to attain competency. All interested individuals are invited to inquire at the Manson district office at 250 Manson Blvd,” said Chief Baker. The Fire District can provide a great retirement plan to assist volunteers getting a great retirement future.

- In 2022, the Manson fire district collectively documented 2,100 hours of training.
- Retirement benefits for fire volunteers is unmatched in the community.

Stop by the office at 250 Manson Blvd and ask about volunteering. Bi-Lingual individuals are encouraged to apply.

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