



Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

Serving North Spokane County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire District 4 puts new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus in service

Deer Park, Wash. – Fire District 4 recently put new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) into service. SCBA's are a critical piece of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters which allow them to breathe clean air in a smoky, hazardous environment.

The SCBA's are manufactured by MSA, the same company that manufactured our previous SCBA's. After completing a rigorous selection process, we chose the new MSA packs for familiarity, ease of transition and the reliability that District 4 firefighters have experienced in the past.

A lease option allowed the district to acquire this equipment and use it over a 5-year period. Our existing SCBA were nearing the end of their replacement cycle, this lease allowed us to acquire the much-needed equipment without a significant impact on our annual operating budget.

These new packs meet current NFPA standards. They improve a firefighter's capability in many ways. First, the mask has more area to see through for better visibility including a new style heads up display which will allow firefighters to see the amount of available air left in their cylinders. Each mask is also equipped with a speaker for improved communication between firefighters in a smoky building and on the radio.

The air cylinder themselves hold a larger amount of compressed air but have not increased in size. Their increased capacity and greater volume of air increases the firefighter's opportunity to exit a hazardous environment in the event of an emergency. The new packs weigh approximately 30 lbs. and are more ergonomically designed to increase comfort and reduce back strain. All these improvements are to increase firefighter safety and reduce fatigue.

Our staff and firefighters have been busy fit testing and training on the new equipment and the new packs went into service on July 24, 2019.

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Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 emergency calls per year. Find Fire District 4 on Facebook at [/SpokaneCoFire4](https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneCoFire4), Twitter ([@SpokaneCoFire4](https://twitter.com/SpokaneCoFire4)) or visit the web site at www.scf4.org.