

# Partnerships That Deliver



## Regional Fire, Rescue and EMS Service Delivery with Local Governance



### Automatic Aid Interlocal Agreements:

Five fire agencies within Benton County have signed an Auto Aid Agreement, which allows for the closest fire or emergency medical unit to an incident to be dispatched, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

A number of separate and specific Interlocal Agreements have been in place between the jurisdictions for many years. Analysis of standards of cover and attention to response time standards has identified a need to rethink current deployment models. The best interests of citizens are served when the appropriate apparatus and staff are assigned to a specific emergency incident, based on the quickest response time possible, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. This document forms the legal authority for jurisdictions to build operational plans to optimize the response options for the community.

### [\\*Click Here for Auto Aid Agreement\\*](#)



### Joint Fire Administration:

As the collaborative effort between the local fire agencies evolves, it is expected that they will move toward a consolidated service. There are many phases to this process from simply utilizing common work practices, to joint projects and programs, to consolidated programs, and some form of consolidated fire service. The exact form of that consolidation is not determined, and needn't be, at this time. The agencies have melded a number of work practices and have completed many successful joint projects. There has been no immediate need to consider relinquishing local governance for each of the agencies as this has proceeded. Similarly there is no great impetus to change the organizations' structure.

The 3-Rivers Community Roundtable followed up their Community Summit by establishing a new regional task force called the *4Cs Task Force*, of which Chief Gear is a member. The task force has identified the following process:

- Start by opening up communications
- Then begin to cooperate more
- Followed by joint collaboration, and
- Eventually this may lead to consolidation

The local fire service agencies feel that we are moving from the cooperation level into a more collaborative phase.

[\\*Future Link to meeting minutes and planning documents\\*](#)

### **Multi Agency Corporative Purchasing Agreement**



#### **County Wide Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Program:**

Fire Agencies within Benton County have worked together to develop the Southeastern Washington Air Group (SEWAG). This group is working to have all fire agencies within Benton County utilizing the same SCBA, with the ultimate goal of having all agencies within the Tri County area utilizing the same SCBA.

[\\*Click Here SEWAG Budget Information\\*](#)



#### **Regional Communications:**

The fire agencies participate in a range of all-risk incidents, including; structure and natural cover fires, emergency medical services and ambulance transport, hazardous materials, rescue, and incident management. To resolve our communications issue we will be transitioning out of the 800MHz radio system and back into the 150MHz VHF system. For our transition back to VHF we have established specifications that ensure all radios have sufficient channels, configured in banks, to accommodate set channel templates for each county in the region. Local fire officers will work with the other counties' administrators to get consensus that all fire agencies, and others as appropriate, will utilize standardized channel templates throughout the region. This will enable use of a greater range of channels without patching throughout the region.

[\\*Click Here for PSIC Application\\*](#)

[\\*Click Here for Background Information\\*](#)

[\\*Click Here for BC Regional SCBA Plan\\*](#)



### **County Wide Personal Protective Equipment:**

Develop a single specification for structural turnout clothing and boots for use by all participating agencies. Position the cooperating agencies to achieve a higher level of competitive pricing using volume purchasing and potential future equipment purchasing as leverage.

**[\\*Click Here for Joint Structural PPE Report\\*](#)**



### **Common EMS Supplies:**

Kennewick and Richland Fire Departments are currently working to standardize the medical supplies used by each agency. As we work closer together. Both agencies are also studying the possibility of purchasing the majority of medical supplies from one common vendor to increase our buying power.