
EAST PRIEST LAKE FIRE DISTRICT

Contact: 48 E Trout Lane, Coolin, ID 83821 **or** eastpriestlakefd@gmail.com

Join us on **Facebook** @ East Priest Lake Fire District

Donate today!

EPLFD relies on generous donations from the public! Donate today by sending a check to the physical address listed above!

EPLFD Summer Fundraiser

Save the Date! Saturday, June 12th, 2021! We promise a music-filled event on the Indian Creek side of Pinto Point. Roasted Pig Potluck dinner planned. Several musical groups are lined up for "A Gathering of Fireside Musicians." Come by foot, vehicle or park your boat in the bay. All proceeds to benefit the EPLFD. More details to come!

Evacuation Plan

Following last September's dangerous windstorm, which caused downed power lines and road blockages, Commissioner Jenny Seaman drafted our first EPLFD Evacuation Plan. It contains emergency phone numbers, chain of command and outlines the basic evacuation options for residents. EPLFD Emergency Contacts are attached at the end of this newsletter.

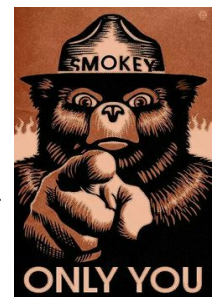


A Warm District Welcome!

EPLFD would like to thank our neighboring fire districts for offering a very warm welcome. The success of our new district and safety of our combined neighborhoods, will rely on strong partnerships and collaboration. Thank you to **Coolin Cavanaugh Bay FD, North of the Narrows FD, and West Priest Lake FD!**

Be a Volunteer Firefighter!

Thank you to the dozen individuals in our district who have already stepped forward to train as volunteer firefighters. While EPLFD solidifies the framework for our own equipment, building, and training, volunteers are being graciously trained and relied on by our neighboring districts: Coolin Cavanaugh Bay FD (CCBFD) and North of the Narrows FD (NNFD). If you would like to learn more about training & dates, please contact Chief Renzi at EPLFDchief@gmail.com



EPLFD Planning & Funding

Prior to the Bonner County approval of EPLFD formation in the spring of 2020, our current community did not have a fire district or fire protection. As cabin owners purchased the land from IDL, many discovered that acquiring, or renewing, home insurance coverage was either difficult or very costly. This was due to the lack of fire protection by a fire district. Although we owe much thanks to those cabin owners who put all the pieces in place for the EPLFD formation, there is much more work ahead. **The following is some background knowledge that may help to explain next steps for our community and EPLFD:**

How does an ISO rating effect your home owner's insurance?

An ISO fire rating is an indication of your local fire department's ability to put out fires. Home insurance agencies use ISO's PPC (Public Protection Classification) in calculating premiums. In general, the price of insurance in a community with a good PPC score is lower. A community's PPC depends on:

- Emergency communications systems
- The fire district equipment, staffing, training and deployment
- The water supply system, including evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires
- Community efforts to reduce the risk of fire, including fire prevention codes and enforcement, public fire safety education and fire investigation programs

Fire Departments are evaluated by an independent agency to establish the ISO rating. ISO Class rating ranges from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best rating.

Minimum criteria must be met in order for the ISO rating to meet a satisfactory level (ISO \leq 8) where property insurance premiums are reduced within the district. EPLFD's current rating is 10.

What is EPLFD's Annual budget process?

EPLFD will create an annual budget. Budget details will show both expected annual revenue (e.g. tax, donation, loan, grant, etc.) and expenses (e.g. structure, equipment, training, professional fees/dues, insurance, audits, etc.) Each year's proposed budget will be first presented at a public hearing held at an open meeting in August, and then submitted to Bonner County not later than the Thursday prior to the second Monday in September (9/9/2021) which allows for the Assessor levy rate calculation. Fire District revenue generation is predominantly through tax base but other revenue can be generated by community effort and donation.

How is a Levy rate set?

Fire districts use property taxes to fund part or all of their services and EPLFD tax revenue will be based on property plus structure. The County Assessor will determine the levy rate by using the following calculation: the EPLFD Total Property Tax Budget divided by the Total Taxable Property Value. In 2020, the Idaho Statutes set the current maximum Fire District tax levy rate at 0.0024.

Individual property owners can estimate their potential tax contribution by referencing their Bonner County property tax statement and locating the total market assessed value ("TOT MKT") and multiplying that value by the tax levy rate. See table below for potential tax levy rates.

Once the initial taxable budget is set and the levy rate is calculated by Bonner County:

- the budget levy rate can only increase by a maximum of 3% per year
- lower annual operational budget needs would allow a lower levy rate in the future

EPLFD’s first tax valuation will be mid-year 2021, therefore tax generated dollars will not be available to our fire district until early 2022. Many Idaho fire districts report that setting the initial operational budget too low, hence a low calculated levy rate, limits the district’s ability to get established in a timely manner. Individual citizen donations would need to be significant to offset a lower tax valuation.

Looking to the future

A fully functioning fire district may include: fire station structure that could include a multi-purpose facility, fire chief, assistant chief, adequate volunteer fire fighters and personnel, quality communication system, fire engine, water tender, brush truck, fire boat, equipment for trucks and personal protective gear for fire fighters, helicopter landing pad for EMS support.

Estimated costs

A phased approach will be required in order to fund a fully functioning fire district. The table below is meant to represent an estimated cost, three revenue approaches, and thus the potential timeline to a functioning district. Cost of land acquisition is to be determined and is excluded from this estimate.

Timeline:	Fast	Medium	Slow
Levy rate calculation:	0.0024	0.002	0.0015
Phase one cost*	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Annual estimated tax revenue**	\$280,800	\$234,000	\$175,500
# of years to fund phase one	~7 years	~9 years	~11 years
# of years to fund with ~\$100,000/year of fundraising & donation contribution	~5 years	~6 years	~7 years

*Bond for capital is a potential option and could accelerate timeline

**based on 2019 data from Bonner County Assessor’s office

Why is it important that we hear from YOU?!

EPLFD wants to hear from our community. After presenting this general newsletter information to the public and holding discussions within our monthly public meetings, EPLFD would like our district cabin owners to participate in a simple one question survey. Please use the link below to share your input:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D8RFXMH>

EPLFD wins Grant from Hollywood Actor's Foundation

Academy Award nominee and philanthropist, Gary Sinise, has awarded the EPLFD a substantial grant through his Gary Sinise Foundation to provide critical fire kit and incident gear turnouts to our volunteers. EPLFD Chief Tom Renzi applied to the Foundation for \$27,000 which will pay for 12 turnouts to outfit and protect our volunteer firefighters. The foundation was pleased to assist a new fire district and a community in need of better access to first responders. This grant will now allow our firefighters to receive 12 full sets of turnouts that will keep them safe while they serve the public.



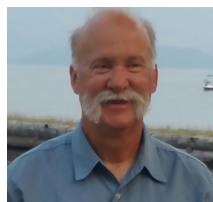
Actor Gary Sinise is perhaps best known as “Lieutenant Dan” in the Tom Hanks classic movie, *Forrest Gump*. The Foundation was formed in 2011 with the mission “... we serve our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. We do this by creating and supporting unique programs designed to entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen, and build communities.” Through Sinise’s acting roles, as in *Forest Gump*, he became enthusiastic in supporting our country’s servicemen and women, along with first responders.

In correspondence with the foundation, the First Responder Outreach Team said, “Please know that this is our pleasure, and serves as a 'Thank You' from Gary and our thousands of donors from all over the state. The work you and your members have done, and will continue to do, is invaluable to your community and we are honored to be able to support you.” We are greatly appreciative of they support they showed the EPLFD by giving us this grant.

Meet the EPLFD Team!



Fire Chief
Tom Renzi



Assistant Fire Chief
Dave Tewel



Secretary
Candace Mumm



Commissioner, Chairman
Tom Clevenger



Commissioner
Jenny Seaman



Commissioner
Ann McKinstry

Please share this newsletter with neighbors!

If someone did not receive this newsletter by email or by mail, please contact EPLFD at eastpriestlakefd@gmail.com to provide the owner's name, physical address, contact email and phone #.

Go to the **EPLFD Facebook page** for details on our **monthly public meetings** which are currently held via Zoom due to COVID precautions.



EPLFD Emergency Contacts

Bonner County Sheriff's Office - Emergency	911
Border Patrol - Bonner's Ferry	208-267-2734
Priest Lake Ambulance & EMT	911
Idaho State Police	911
Idaho Department of Lands	208-443-2516 800-232-3473 (24 hr #)
Forest Service - Priest Lake	208-443-2512
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Northern Lights	866-665-4837 (report an outage)
Priest Lake State Park Headquarters	208-443-2200