**FYI**

 Wildland fire season is approaching. Wildland firefighters all over the U.S. re brushing up on skills, attending refresher training and getting their apparatus and equipment ready. This includes your fire district members.

**HELP US HELP YOU**

Now that the weather is starting to warm up, property owners are starting to burn their slash piles and clean up fence lines and ditch banks using fire to get rid of the unwanted weeds and grass.

 If you are going to use fire to clean up your property, there are somethings to remember.

 Watch the weather, if winds are predicted, wait for another day.

 Be prepared, have water, rake, shovel, gloves, boots, and cell phone ready.

 Keep your fire small, no larger than you can put out quickly.

 Use several small fires with each succeeding fire burning back to previously burned areas.

 Watch the area already burned for hot spots escaping into unburned areas.

 Stay with your fire until your sure it is completely out.

 Call for help before things get really bad. Remember it will take a while for help to get there.

 Cautionary tale: One property owner recently lost his pole barn and several pieces of farm equipment when his grass fire got away and into his barn. Don’t let this be you.

**FOR THE RECORD**

 In February, Fire District 4 responded to thirty-five requests for assistance. Two structure fires, one vehicle fire, twenty-two emergency medical calls, four vehicle accidents with injuries, two vehicle accidents with no injuries and four personal service/lift assist calls.

 For the month, our volunteer members gave three hundred and sixty-four hours of their time for incident responses and training.

**MORE ON COOKING SAFETY**

 Microwave ovens should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.

 Check cords for cracks, breaks, damage or overheating. Have a professional repair the cord. Never place combustible materials on top of a cord.

 Always supervise children when they are using the microwave oven.

 Use only microwave-safe cookware. Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven.

 Do not leave a microwave oven unattended when microwaving popcorn, since the heat buildup can cause fires.

 Open microwaved food containers away from the face. Hot steam escaping can cause burns.

 Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven because it heats liquids unevenly. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.

 If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately. This will stop the fan so it won’t feed oxygen to the flames. Never open the oven door until the fire is out. If in doubt, call 911.

 **REMEMBER:** Volunteer firefighters and EMT's are **your** neighbors helping **their** neighbors!