



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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"more than fire..."

17718 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie, WA 98606
(360) 892-2331
www.fire3.org



FireDistrict3



Message from the Chief

By Scott Sorenson

I'd like to start this newsletter by saying thank you. Your support for Fire District 3 enables us to provide life-saving services to 40,000 people in Clark County, including the City of Battle Ground.

Our contract with Battle Ground continues to provide us with resources to improve our emergency response in the entire service area. Costs for emergency services are borne equally between the city and the fire district. The next step may be to have the city annex into Fire District 3, which would be more efficient.

Call volumes continue to increase an average of five percent per year. A year ago, voters returned the fire levy to \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This has been critical to maintaining emergency services levels for our community.

For example, we have added staffing at Station 32 and improved our training and paramedic programs. We have purchased or

replaced apparatus, including a water tender, ladder truck and two rapid response vehicles. We also have reinstated our Fire Risk Reduction program, which had been discontinued due to budget constraints.

These actions have helped us maintain the fire district's insurance rating, which was at risk of slipping. This rating is directly linked to what companies charge home and business owners in insurance premiums.

Being part of our community is more than just responding to 911 calls. Many of us at Fire District 3 were born and raised in Clark County. We have a vested interest in seeing our community be safe and thrive. That's why we teach fire prevention in our schools and train community members in CPR, First Aid and fire extinguisher use. Last year, we helped 300 homeowners reduce the risk of wildland fire to their properties.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me at (360) 892-2331 or scott@fire3.org.

Six Hundred Kids Trained in CPR

Fire District 3 partnered with the Chief Umtuch Middle School and the American Heart Association to teach high performance, hands-only CPR to students. More than 600 students in grades 5-8 participated in the annual training, which is part of the school's



heart health and education program. Students watched a brief video,

and then practiced the CPR technique on a dummy with help from our firefighters.



Cardiac arrest unexpectedly takes the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans each year. Studies show that survival rates from a heart attack can be doubled or tripled if CPR is administered until emergency medical services arrive.

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Prepare for Wildland Fire Season Now

Rain and snow allows brush to grow and die off quickly in the spring, which provides fuel for wildland fires in the summer and fall months. Fire District 3 is asking residents to prepare for wildland fire season now. Here are some helpful tips.

Provide good access to your home and/or shop for allowing firefighting vehicles the ability to get onto your property as well as be able to turn around and leave. Firefighters and apparatus cannot go into areas where there are no access options.

Firefighters also need to be able to locate your property. Have your address posted on your driveway entrance as well as your house.

Creating a “fire barrier” to homes and outbuildings is critical. Some simple tips to protect structures are as follows:

- Maintain a 30-foot defensible space around your home.
- Keep lawns well-watered.
- Prune or remove combustible trees or shrubs that are too close to your home.
- Clean gutters and roofs of any debris regularly.
- Screen off crawl spaces, attics and decks to keep them free of debris, as well as any flying embers.
- Do NOT store combustibles, such as wood piles, under your deck or near your home.

Fire District 3 also offers a free property inspection to provide tailored recommendations to create a defensible space. Interested parties can call (360) 892-2331.

