



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

"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

These are unprecedented times. As I write this, we still haven't seen the number of COVID-19 cases peak in Washington.

However, I want to continue to reassure you that we're ready to respond. We have trained for this. We are here if you or a family member need us. This is possible because of your support for Clark County Fire District 3, and we are eternally grateful.

Even in the times of COVID-19, we must keep the wheels rolling and update you on a few things. Topping the list is saying thank you for approving Battle Ground annexing to Clark County Fire District 3. Your support means we can plan and coordinate emergency services in both communities as one agency. Now more than ever, a seamless response is critical to the health and well-being of our community.

We are already working as one team. Annexation took effect officially on February 21, 2020, the day the election was certified. City property owners will pay a new fire levy to Fire District 3, beginning in 2021. This will be reflected on your property tax statements next February. Fire District residents already pay this levy so that will not change.

Fire District 3 will continue to lease the city fire station. According to our agreement, the city has provided land for a new facility that best serves both communities in the future. The city has also transferred ownership of its two fire engines to the Fire District.

In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. I can be reached at (360) 892-2331 or scott@fire3.org. Be safe, and stay at home until this virus passes.

Emergency Management Plan Prepares City's Response

The City of Battle Ground is responsible for providing essential municipal services and we take that responsibility seriously. During a public emergency, the city is committed to maintaining essential city operations in order to serve the public need.

The City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan provides a framework for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. The plan is regularly reviewed and practiced by staff and City Council. It is used in conjunction with the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where staff address active threats

and hazards by focusing on situational awareness, planning, and resource gathering.

In December of 2015, Battle Ground's EOC was activated in response to an EF-1 Tornado. City, Clark County Fire & Rescue, Fire District 3 and CRESA staff worked together with the objective of providing first responders with what they needed to protect life and property, to provide elected officials with the information they needed to make policy decisions, and to provide affected residents and businesses with the information and resources they needed to safely respond and recover.

Battle Ground's Emergency Management Plan and EOC were activated on March 13 of this year in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Although very different from a tornado, the same emergency management protocols and objectives apply – protect life and property by maintaining essential services, make informed and effective policy decisions, and support the community with information and resources. Providing services essential to our community's health and safety is the City of Battle Ground's steadfast commitment and highest priority.



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Staying at Home? Prepare Your Property for Wildland Fire Season

We're all staying home to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and thank you for doing so! If you live in the urban/wilderness interface, you can use this time to prepare your property for wildland fire season.

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

ACCESS: First, 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.

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

CREATE A BARRIER: 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 is not able to provide a free property inspection at this time. If you're looking for recommendations or advice, please contact our duty officer at (360) 892-2331.