



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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Message from the Chief

By Scott Sorenson

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. I have a couple of things to share with you in this

edition. First, we have updated our Strategic Plan (available on our website at www.fire3.org). I've done several plans in my 40 years in the fire service, but struggled with this one because of our contract relationship with the City of Battle Ground.

It's difficult to plan for emergency services without including our neighbor to the west. However, the short-term nature of a contract prohibits us from making long-term investments in staffing, apparatus and facilities. That's part of the reason we're asking voters to consider allowing the City to annex to the Fire District on the February 11, 2020 Special Election ballot. This must be approved by voters in both the City and Fire District to pass.

For Fire District residents, the fire levy rate you pay will not increase. However, annexation

would guarantee additional units to respond to emergencies. It also allows us for better training, a fire marshal and fire prevention services in our local schools and wildland interface areas. These factors contribute to our strong community insurance rating.

For City residents, annexation means you will continue to receive high-quality emergency services. The current contract rate is projected to exceed the City's property tax levy collections. If that happens, service levels would be reduced. The City will cut its utility tax to help offset the cost of the fire levy. Remaining revenue would be used to fund other needed city services like police, roads and parks.

Working as one agency is more cost-effective for taxpayers, and guarantees quality emergency service will continue. Visit our website to learn more at www.fire3.org, or contact me at (360) 892-2331 or scott@fire3.org with questions.

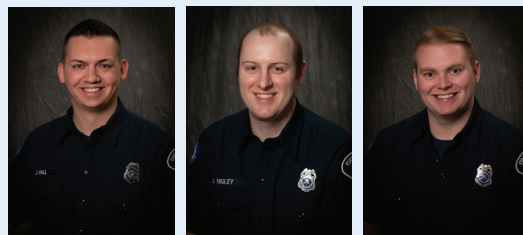
Promises Made, Promises Kept

Revenue paid by property owners in Fire District 3 is accounted for separately from the City of Battle Ground contract. Two years ago, taxpayers in Fire District 3 approved a fire levy lid lift to fund personnel, apparatus and equipment. The Fire District has purchased a ladder truck and replaced two quick response apparatus called "squads."

Recently Fire District 3 hired three new firefighters to reduce response times.

Please welcome Josh Hall, Jacob Higley, and Andrew Lyons to the Fire District 3 family. These hires help to staff Station 32 in Venersborg.

Firefighters Josh Hall, Jacob Higley, and Andrew Lyons (L to R)



"more than fire..."

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Fire Safety Tips for Winter *Reproduced with permission of Fireline*

Colder months mean more time indoors with friends and family. Follow these simple tips to prevent fires before they happen and enjoy the holiday season!

Have Your Furnace Checked

Invest in hiring a professional to come and inspect your furnace annually. It's always better to know when something is not working properly than to have it abruptly break down in those cold winter months when you need heat the most.

Inspect Chimneys and Vents

Fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting. If your family has a fireplace, have an annual chimney inspection to make sure that there are no hazards capable of starting a fire. It's important to always remember that when burning wood, use dry, seasoned wood which produces more flame with less smoke.

Test Smoke Alarms

You always want to double check that your batteries are fresh and will last you through the winter. Always place smoke alarms in the kitchen, bedrooms, and the laundry room.

Screen Your Fireplace

Either a metal screen or tempered glass will suffice to protect any sparks from leaving the fireplace. Still, you always want to make sure to keep kids and pets at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.

Candle Caution

Candles can be easily knocked over by kids or pets. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them, blowing them out whenever you intend to leave the room.

Beware of Space Heaters

Avoid placing heaters near curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Always make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to quit as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level.

