



# FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

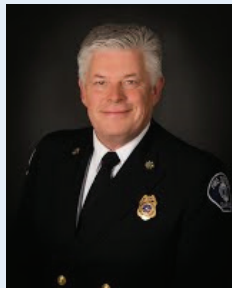
**Fire District 3**  
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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## Message from the Chief

By Chief Scott Sorenson

Planning for the future emergency service needs of our community is an important part of what we do. I want to use my time to share with you what's on the horizon and how we fund it.

First are daily operations costs for emergency personnel, maintenance of apparatus and facilities, some facility renovations, and supplies. Daily operations are funded by a voter-approved fire levy of \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value paid through property taxes.

Our community is growing and we are seeing higher emergency call volumes as a result. Operation improvements in the next five years include adding emergency personnel; replacing two fire engines; and, remodeling Station 34 in Brush Prairie to accommodate additional staffing.

An increase in property values does not mean more revenue for the fire district. State law limits the fire district to a 1% revenue increase per year. As property

values rise, our fire levy rate falls to limit us to roughly the same amount of revenue. To fund the improvements, we likely will ask the community to return the fire levy to \$1.42/\$1,000 sometime in 2023.

The second area of planning is for capital items. In the next 10 years, we will need to replace three more fire engines, and build a new station to respond to population growth in our area. These capital projects will require voter-approved bonds sometime in 2025 or soon after.

We are working now to reduce the amount of that bond request by asking the Clark County Council to allow fire districts to collect impact fees on new development. We're also considering asking voters to approve a slightly higher fire levy and then reserving those funds for these capital items. This would reduce the amount we'd have to borrow.

We hope you will take part in these discussions, and share your thoughts when we start the public outreach process. In the meantime, thank you for your support of Clark County Fire District 3.

## Public Hearing for 2022 Budget

Clark County Fire District 3 operates under a balanced budget and has long history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state. The fire district has a public budget process every year and we invite you to take part.

This year's public hearing for the 2022 Budget will take place on Monday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. online (access at [www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org)).

Staff will make its presentation, take public comment and answer questions during the meeting. The Board of Fire Commissioners will vote on the budget at the end of the meeting.

These are your tax dollars, and we want you to understand how they are used to save lives and property. Please join us for this important meeting!

*"more than fire..."*

17718 NE 159th Street  
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[www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org)



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# Fire District 3

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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## Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!

October is Fire Safety Month, and National Fire Prevention Week was held October 3-9. The theme of this year's fire prevention message was 'Learn the Sounds of Fire Prevention.' Starting with knowing what to do when an alarm sounds, to increasing awareness for the devices to help people who are deaf or hard of hearing the campaign aims to keep people safer. Do you know the sounds?

### CHIRP

Hearing a CHIRP means a change is needed. A chirping alarm means the battery, or the alarm, needs to be replaced. Remember, smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years.

### BEEP

Hearing a beep, means getting on your feet—get out, and call 9-1-1. A beeping alarm means that smoke or carbon monoxide is present.

More fire safety tips are at [www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org)!

