



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

IN THIS EDITION:

Message from
the Chief

Are You Signed Up
for CRESA Alerts?

Prepare Now for
Wildland Fire
Season!

"more than fire..."

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



FireDistrict3



Message from the Chief

By Chief Scott Sorenson

I wanted to take a moment to update you about a fire levy lid lift being considered by our Board of Fire

Commissioners sometime this fall. The fire district's population has grown 26 percent in the last 10 years and this growth is driving higher call volumes and costs for emergency services.

The purpose of the lid lift is to improve the safety of our community and its firefighters by being able to staff a three-person engine company, which is the national standard for fire districts our size. Our two-person engine companies do not allow firefighters to enter buildings to perform search and rescue operations, which is a concern.

State law and national standards outline acceptable firefighter safety requirements when actively conducting operations in atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health. Current staffing levels do not provide the number of firefighters needed to effectively meet the intent of these mandates and as a result, limit our effectiveness. This ultimately increases the risk for our community and firefighters.

Voters approved a lid lift of \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value six years ago. We funded all projects on time and on budget.

We are proud of our track record of keeping our promises to taxpayers.

Fire District 3 is considering asking voters to approve a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 sometime in 2023. This lid lift is a 29-cent increase or \$12.08 per month (\$145 per year) for the owner of a \$500,000 property.

Over time, the fire levy rate falls as property values rise to limit the fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year plus a 1% increase allowed by law (or any other voter-approved amount). Projects for this six-year lid lift include:

- Hire up to six firefighters per year for the life of the levy
- Train firefighters in swift water, high angle, ropes instead of relying on mutual aid
- Remodel Station 34 (Rawson Road, Elkhorn, Summer Hill) to allow full-time staffing
- Replace equipment, a fire engine, an ambulance, a marine rescue unit and other minor apparatus that have reached the end of their usable lives.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is meeting on this issue on April 24 at 6:00 pm. Meeting access information is on our website at www.fire3.org/board-of-fire-commissioners. In the meantime, please let me know if you have questions. Thank you.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CRESA ALERTS? Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency is the best source for emergency information – signing up (cresa911.org) is easy! **It is recommended that you register a landline, if you have one, for your home alert.** During the Nakia Fire, some people received multiple evacuation notices to cell phones that were confusing. CRESA has resolved the issues that led to this confusion. Visit Fire District 3's website (www.fire3.org) for updates on what the region is studying after the Nakia Fire.

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Prepare Now for Wildland Fire Season!

Spring is the ideal time to protect your home and property before wildland fire season begins. Here are a few tips to prepare now:

1. Provide good access to your home and/or shop that allows 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.
2. Firefighters need to be able to locate your property! Have your address posted on your driveway entrance as well as your house.
3. Have an evacuation plan for your family and animals.
4. Create a “fire barrier” to homes and outbuildings. Some recommendations to protect structures are:
 - 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.

Photo of the Nakia Fire that burned over 1,900 acres in October 2022



Fire District 3 offers free risk assessment surveys of residents' property. To schedule a visit, contact us at (360) 892-2331 or info@fire3.org. For additional fire prevention resources, visit www.fire3.org.