



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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Summer



Message from the Chief

By Chief Scott Sorenson

I wanted to report back on the progress we are making to bring a fire levy lid lift to the ballot during the August 1 primary election.

The purpose of the lid lift is to improve the safety of our community and its firefighters.

The lid lift would fund additional personnel to respond to higher call volumes and meet industry best practices. Specifically, Fire District 3 would be able to fund three-person engine companies. Currently, the district's two-person engine companies require at least one more firefighter on scene before rescue operations can occur. This can delay our emergency response.

The lid lift would also fund the renovation of Station 34 in the Rawson Road/Elkhorn/Summer Hill area to provide full-time 24-hour staffing to reduce response times. Additionally, it would replace a fire engine, ambulance and other smaller equipment that have reached the end of their usable lives.

Firefighter training also is important to community safety. The lid lift would fund

technical training (swift water, high angles and ropes) to decrease the reliance on outside agency help, which takes longer to reach people in an emergency.

The fire levy lid lift is \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and will cost an additional \$12.08 per month or \$145 per year for the owner of a \$500,000 home.

We are scheduling a question and answer session about the fire levy lid lift on **July 12 from 6 to 7 pm at Station 31** in Hockinson, 17718 NE 159 St, 98606. We will also be hosting a pancake breakfast at Harvest Days in Battle Ground on July 15 and two Open Houses on July 29 at Station 32 from 10 am - 1 pm and Station 33 from 1 pm - 4 pm. I will be available at those events to answer any questions. I hope you will join us to learn more about this ballot measure.

As a final note, voters last approved a lid lift six years ago. We funded all projects on time and on budget. We are proud of our track record of keeping promises to taxpayers and appreciate your support.

The Fight for Impact Fees

Fire District 3's population has grown 26 percent in the last 10 years and this growth is driving higher call volumes and costs for emergency services. Our district and other fire agencies have met regularly with the County Council to ask them to collect impact fees to help offset the costs associated with new growth.

Impact fees represent new developments' contribution to infrastructure, such as fire stations, engines and other capital needs. Ultimately, impact fees reduce the amount a

fire district may have to ask from existing property taxpayers through voter-approved bonds.

Your elected Board of Fire Commissioners for Fire District 3 believes strongly that growth should pay for itself. Existing residents should not shoulder the burden for new growth that causes the need for new stations, emergency apparatus or equipment. We have not been successful in convincing the Clark County Council, but we will not give up!

"more than fire..."

17718 NE 159th Street
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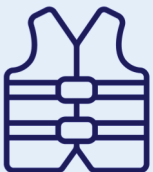
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Stay Safe This Summer



Sun's out, so the fun's out! We want you have a great time, safely enjoying all the Northwest has to offer this summer.

Water Safety

- Wear a life jacket always. Even if you're a good swimmer. Even if you're on a boat. Lifejackets save lives.
- Always swim with a buddy.
- Avoid areas with swift currents, sudden drops, and other underwater obstacles.
- Stay hydrated and use sun protection.

Fireworks

- Follow local guidelines and be considerate of your neighbors.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks. Older children should use them only under close, responsible adult supervision.

- Keep a bucket of sand or water, and a hose or fire extinguisher on hand.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Find an area to light off fireworks that is away from people, buildings, and flammable material.

Wildland Fire Season

- Clear a defensible space now — remove vegetation within 30 feet of your home.
- Before burning vegetation on your property, check restrictions* and burn responsibly. www.fire3.org/burning-information/
- Clear dry leaves and debris from roof and gutters
- Stay informed: Sign up for CRESA alerts - www.cresa911.org/206/Alert-And-Warning

*Please note, residential burning and land-clearing burning of vegetation, yard debris or branches is prohibited within Battle Ground city limits.