



# FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

**Fire District 3**  
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

## IN THIS EDITION:

Message from  
the Chief

Let's Talk About  
Growth

Why Does Fire  
District 3 Respond  
to Medical  
Emergencies?

Holiday Toy &  
Food Drive

*"more than fire..."*

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



FireDistrict3



## Message from the Chief

By Chief Scott Sorenson

The holiday season is a wonderful time to reflect on and count our blessings. On top of that list is how grateful we are for your support of Fire District 3. Thank you!

Since the fire levy lid lift failed in August, I have spent time visiting with residents to understand why. I have learned a lot and sincerely appreciate you taking the time to visit. Low voter turnout, not aware, just missing it, or assuming it would pass are common responses. Some said they simply couldn't afford it; city residents are still adjusting to a new tax when they annexed to us in 2020. Growth, the assumed revenue from growth, additional costs and demands, and proposed tax exemptions are concerns. Several shared personal experiences about our services and urged us to work harder to get the word out and run again. The results were disappointing for all of us at Fire District 3, but we know that you support our work.

As a community, we are now at a crossroads. The levy lid lift would have hired additional personnel, funded station improvements to allow for quicker response times, replaced aging apparatus, and funded additional training for firefighters to maintain and improve emergency service levels. Continual levy lid lift failures will reduce needed staffing, extend response times, delay needed capital replacements, and reduce training for firefighters. For now, 2024 funding decisions are still being discussed by the Board of Fire Commissioners, but reductions are inevitable.

Fire District 3 delivered on promises made in the last lid lift (2017) and the annexation of the City of Battle Ground (2020). We will work hard to do so in the future. As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments. Contact me anytime at [scott@fire3.org](mailto:scott@fire3.org) or (360) 892-2331.

## Let's Talk About Growth

Many people believe that new development or "growth" is a windfall of cash for Fire District 3. The reality is a fire district is limited to a 1% revenue increase per year unless voters approve a different amount. As a result, the fire levy rate decreases as the total assessed value of properties rise to limit a fire district to the amount of its previous budget.

Here's how it translates for the fire district. As new property comes online the assessed value of the fire district goes up and the fire

levy rate goes down. Eventually, the revenue does not keep up with the cost increases and increasing demand for services. For example, new development and higher assessed property values have caused our fire levy rate to fall from \$1.42 to \$1.13 per \$1,000 in 2024.

We will protect and serve all residents of Fire District 3 within our budget whether your family has been here for generations or just a few months. Thank you for understanding.

# Fire District 3

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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## Holiday Toy & Food Drive

This holiday season, Clark County Fire District 3 is collecting non-perishable food items, toys and gift cards for area families in need through December 13. Donations can be dropped off at Station 31 in Hockinson (17718 NE 159th St., Brush Prairie, WA 98606) and Station 35 in Battle Ground (505 SW 1st St., Battle Ground, WA 98604). You can also mail a gift card to us at the address for Station 31 above.



**CHECK YOUR INSURANCE RATING:** The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau evaluates fire services. It issues a rating that is used by most insurance companies to determine insurance rates for homes and businesses. In Fire District 3, properties within 1,000 feet of a hydrant receive a Class 4 rating, and properties over 1,000 ft. and within 5 miles of a station receive a Class 5 rating. As a result of your support, we have maintained and improved these ratings, saving you money on insurance premiums. Contact your insurance agent to verify you are receiving these savings.

## Why Does Fire District 3 Respond to Medical Emergencies?

The first and most important objective is to get medically trained personnel to the scene of medical emergencies as quickly as possible. American Medical Response and North Country Emergency Medical Services provide our ambulance services, and often respond longer distances and with longer response times.

Responding Firefighter/EMTs greatly reduce emergency medical service (EMS) response times, with the result of improved patient care and better patient outcomes. All Fire District 3 firefighters have EMS certification. Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and IV Technicians are always on duty. These Firefighter/EMTs perform the required Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills (IV, heart defibrillator, etc.) prior to the arrival of the ambulance.

Once the ambulance arrives the Firefighter/EMT and ambulance Paramedics and EMTs work together to provide the best possible care for the patient and prepare the patient for transport to the hospital. This tiered system offers citizens immediate help from highly trained local responders. At times, Fire District 3 personnel travel and assist with the patient on the ambulance.

Fire District 3 personnel and apparatus are equipped to perform EMS and numerous other functions. Examples include fire suppression (wildland and structural), rescue (entrapment, motor-vehicle collisions), hazardous materials, and other types of public assistance (flooding, natural disasters and lift assists, etc.).