



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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"more than fire..."

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(360) 892-2331
www.fire3.org



FireDistrict3



Message from the Chief

By Chief Scott Sorenson

I appreciate the opportunity to share information with you about our fire district. We appreciate your support and it is an honor to serve.

Call volumes have increased more than 25 percent in the last six years. Costs rise six percent per year on average, but state law limits us to a one percent revenue increase (and one-time payments for new construction).

We have had to make cuts to balance our budget. Specifically, we are not able to fill vacant positions when firefighters leave for fire districts that are better funded. This is impacting service levels and response times.

The bottom line is patient outcome. The cost and demand for emergency services is outpacing the revenue we have to provide it. This is a concern since 70 percent of our calls are for medical emergencies.

Fire District 3 is asking voters for a fire levy lid lift of \$0.34 per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the August 6, 2024 primary election. It is called Proposition 5 and will fund:

- 24-hour staffing for our fire stations to improve response times
- Additional paramedic-certified firefighters and modern medical equipment to improve survival rates
- Replacing an aging ambulance to transport patients to area hospitals
- Emergency service levels that will maintain our risk rating for homeowner insurance premiums

The lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home an additional \$14.17 per month or \$170 per year. You can learn more about the levy lid lift on our website, www.fire3.org, or you can contact me with questions at scott@fire3.org or 360-892-2331.

Every Minute Counts

The fire levy lid lift would hire additional firefighters to staff our stations 24-hours per day. This is critical to improve response times.

It's obvious that faster response time will reduce the amount of structure damage in a fire. But, what about medical emergencies?

Emergency medical service, which accounts for 70% of our calls, is where it's most critical.

Survival rates for heart attacks and strokes improve by 10% per minute. Reducing response times by only one minute on average would save thousands of lives per year across the nation.

Thank you for considering our lid lift request.

Fire District 3

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

P.O. Box 459

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Is your home ready for wildfire season?

Fire District 3 offers no-cost risk assessments

With the wildland fire season upon us, now is the time to take precautions to make your home as safe as possible.

Fire District 3 is offering no-cost wildfire risk assessments for homeowners. Our professionals work with you to determine actions you can take now to reduce risks and increase the likelihood that your home is protected in the event of a wildland fire.



The assessment considers road access, topography, fuels, electrical utilities, water supply, structural fire protection, landscaping, outdoor burning and firewood storage. At the end of the survey, the homeowner will receive a score describing their property's fire risk level with suggestions on how to improve their score.

"Wildland fires are happening more often in our area," says Division Chief/Fire Marshal Chris Drone. "We are seeing hotter and drier conditions, which leads to earlier snowmelt, increased drought and more fuels from dead vegetation. All of these natural factors contribute to longer and more active fire seasons."

It is critical that homeowners be proactive, taking steps now to make their homes and properties defensible spaces. Contact Fire District 3 today at 360-892-2331 to request your free wildfire risk assessment.