



# Fire District 3

## CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 2, 2024  
Contact: Chief Scott Sorenson  
Office (360) 892-2331 | Cell (360) 989-7375 | [scott@fire3.org](mailto:scott@fire3.org)

#### **Public meetings to learn more about fire levy lid lift**

*Proposal to fund more firefighters will appear on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot*

BRUSH PRAIRIE, WASH. — Clark County Fire District 3 invites residents to learn more about the fire levy lid lift that will be on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The lid lift will fund 24-hour staffing at fire stations, additional paramedic-certified firefighters, medical equipment upgrades, and a new ambulance.

Residents are encouraged to attend one of two public meetings hosted by Fire Chief Scott Sorenson to ask questions and learn more:

- Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m., at Station 31 (17718 NE 159th Street, Brush Prairie)
- Saturday, July 13, at 9 a.m., at Station 35 (505 SW 1st St., Battle Ground)

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 the fire district to a one-percent revenue increase (and one-time payments for new construction).

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

Clark County Fire District 3 has a history of good financial stewardship, but the cost and demand for emergency services is outpacing revenue from the fire levy. This is a concern since 70 percent of the district’s calls are for medical emergencies.

The bottom line is patient outcome. Revenue from a levy lid lift would hire more firefighters to staff all five of the district’s fire stations 24 hours a day. This is critical to improve response times. It would also fund more paramedic-certified firefighters and modern medical equipment to improve survival rates and replace an aging ambulance to transport patients to area hospitals.

Each fire district has an insurance risk rating that is based on maintaining service levels. When fire districts struggle to meet the thresholds for staffing, age of equipment, and response times, their insurance risk rating goes up, which can increase homeowner insurance premiums. The lid lift would maintain Clark County Fire District 3’s risk rating, ensuring that tax dollars pay for fire and emergency medical service rather than rising insurance premiums.

In 2017, voters approved a fire levy of \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Since then, the rate has dropped to \$1.16. Fire District 3 is asking voters to consider a \$0.34 lid lift on the August primary election ballot to reset the rate to \$1.50. The lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home an additional \$14.17 per month or \$170 per year.

The additional revenue will hire more firefighters to staff all five of the district's fire stations 24-hours a day. This is critical to improve response times. It would also fund more paramedic-certified firefighters and modern medical equipment to improve survival rates, as well as replace an aging ambulance to transport patients to area hospitals.

Learn more at one of the upcoming public meetings or at [www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org). Chief Sorenson also welcomes your questions at 360-892-2331 or [scott@fire3.org](mailto:scott@fire3.org).

###

*Clark County Fire District 3 provides fire and life safety services to 46,000 people in east Clark County, including the city of Battle Ground. Full-time and volunteer emergency personnel responded to 5,173 calls in 2023, of which 70 percent were for EMS. Fire District 3 operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state. More information on Fire District 3 can be found on its website [www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org).*

***"more than fire..."***

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