FIRE 3 Insider

CLARK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2026



A Message from Fire Chief Chris Drone

Happy holidays from Clark County Fire District 3. We are grateful for your personal and financial support, which helps us save lives and protect property.

Thanks to your support, we have made improvements to emergency service levels and increased our capacity district-wide. This includes investing in our people through advanced training and replacing equipment and apparatus as needed. We have also spent significant time educating our community about wildland fire preparedness and other community risk reduction programs.

One of the biggest accomplishments of 2026 was the approval of fire impact fees in unincorporated Clark County. The City of Battle Ground has collected impact fees since 1999 to help offset the costs of serving new development. As mentioned in our summer newsletter, we have been working with Clark County on this issue for several years, and those efforts paid off. New development will now help contribute toward capital items such as stations, apparatus and equipment.

As we look ahead to 2027, Station 34 on Rawson Road will begin full-time staffing in January. For the first time, all five stations will be staffed around the clock. Our focus for the year will be maintaining these service level improvements for our community.

Like most of you, we are feeling the pinch when it comes to our budget. Operating costs, including fuel, health insurance and supplies, have risen significantly. Careful financial planning is essential so we can continue operating with a balanced budget without relying on emergency reserves for daily operations.

As always, I welcome your questions at 360-892-2331 or chris.drone@fire3.org. Thank you again for your support, and have a safe holiday season.

"more than fire..."

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Stay Safe and Warm This Winter



As temperatures drop and home heating systems go back to work, a few simple precautions can help prevent fires and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Test smoke and CO alarms and replace batteries if needed. Have furnaces, fireplaces, chimneys and other heating equipment inspected and maintained, and keep anything that can burn a safe distance from heat sources.

Winter storms can also bring power outages. If you use a portable generator, always operate it outdoors and well away from doors, windows and vents. Never use a generator, grill or other fuel-burning equipment inside a home, garage or other enclosed space—even with doors or windows open.

Carbon monoxide is especially dangerous because it is colorless and odorless. Exposure can cause headache, dizziness, nausea, weakness and confusion. If a CO alarm sounds or you suspect carbon monoxide in your home, get everyone outside to fresh air and call 911.

Holiday Toy & Food Drive

Fire District 3 is once again collecting donations to help make the holidays brighter for local families. Donations will be accepted **November 30 - December 17** at:

- Station 31—17718 NE 159th St., Brush Prairie
- Station 35—505 SW 1st St., Battle Ground

Community members are encouraged to donate **new toys, gift cards, toiletries, new blankets or clothing, and non-perishable food.** Gifts for teens are especially appreciated, including gift cards that allow families to choose items they need or enjoy.



Thank you to everyone who helps us support our neighbors and bring a little extra joy to local families this holiday season!

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON
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Brush Prairie, WA 98606
360-892-2331 | www.fire3.org

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Growth Helps Pay for Growth

New homes and businesses bring new residents, new activity and, over time, increased demand for emergency services. They also create a need for additional fire service infrastructure to serve a growing community.

That's where impact fees come in. Impact fees are one-time fees associated with new development. They help pay for eligible capital needs related to growth, such as fire stations, apparatus, and other infrastructure needed to provide emergency services as the community expands.

The concept is simple: growth helps pay for growth. Rather than placing the full cost of growth-related infrastructure on existing taxpayers, impact fees allow new development to contribute toward the additional capital needs it creates.



Impact fees help new development contribute toward the additional fire service infrastructure needed as communities grow.

It's also important to understand what impact fees don't fund. They are not a replacement for Fire District 3's operating levy, which supports the day-to-day delivery of emergency services. Impact fees are limited to eligible capital expenses associated with growth and cannot be used for ongoing operating costs such as staffing, training, or routine expenses.

As Fire District 3 plans for the future, impact fees are one tool that can help the District keep pace with a growing community and responsibly plan for the stations, apparatus, and other infrastructure needed to serve residents for years to come.