



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Fall-Winter 2020

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

In This
Edition:

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the Chief

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for Winter

"more than fire..."

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



FireDistrict3



Message from the Chief

By **Scott Sorenson**

Clark County Fire District 3 recently welcomed four full-time and three volunteer resident firefighters to respond to calls. Additional personnel will allow us to go from four to five crews 24-hours a day and provide more capacity for the agency to respond to emergency calls district-wide. This is possible because voters supported a fire levy lid lift in 2017, and annexing the City of Battle Ground to the Fire District in 2020.

The old staffing model for the Fire District was to have a 24-hour crew on call at Stations 31 (Hockinson, Finn Hill, Brush Prairie), 33 (Battle Ground Lake, Heisson, Lucia Falls), and 35 (City of Battle Ground). A fourth crew split their time between Station 32 (Venersborg) and 35.

The fire levy lid lift provided funding for the Fire District to staff Station 32 24-hours day. The annexation guaranteed two crews for Station 35 in the city, which is the busiest for the Fire District.

Funds from the fire levy lid lift also improved Station 34 (Rawson Road, Elkhorn Mountain, Summer Hills) to accommodate the volunteer resident firefighters. Emergency personnel require sleeping and eating facilities to be able to staff a station 24-hours a day. Response times are longer if volunteers have to come from home to a fire station to get their gear and emergency apparatus needed for a call.

While our top priority is saving lives and property, we also give back through a variety of community events and services, such as fundraising for families in need, installing smoke detectors and address signs, teaching First Aid/CPR classes, station tours, fire prevention in local schools, risk assessments for your home, burn permits, blood pressure checks, and food and toy drives during the holidays.

Good things are happening all around us. In the spirit of the holidays, we're counting you among our blessings and wish you the peace of the season.

Holiday Gift Card Drive

This holiday season, Fire District 3 is collecting gift cards (or cash donations to purchase gift cards) for area families in need. Gift cards 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 also can mail a gift card to us at the address for Station 31 above.

Please have your gift cards or cash donations to the Fire District by December 15 to give

families time to shop. Cash donations can be made through GoFundMe at [gf.me/u/y862d8](https://www.gofundme.com/u/y862d8).

This has been a difficult year for many that can be made a little brighter with your help. Thank you for helping support our community, and have a safe and happy holiday.



Fire District 3

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Heat your home safely

By the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Protect yourself and your loved ones this winter. If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, be extremely careful. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and remember these safety tips:

- Turning on the stove or oven for heat is not safe; have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out:
 - Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats
 - Fireplace that is up to code with plenty of dry firewood or a gas log fireplace
 - Portable space heaters or kerosene heaters. Check with your local fire department to make sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.

 Use electric space heaters with automatic shut-off switches and non-glowing elements. Make sure to keep them away from any flammable materials, like curtains or blankets.



Use fireplaces, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and do not leak gas from the flue or exhaust into the indoor air space.

- Have your heating system serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Make sure you have proper ventilation if you must use a kerosene heater.
- Use only the type of fuel your heater is designed to use—don't substitute.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Make sure that the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard, but do not run the cord under carpets or rugs.
- Avoid using extension cords to plug in your space heater.
- If your space heater has a damaged electrical cord or produces sparks, do not use it.