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Chief's Corner

By Chief Ben Andrews



Clallam County Fire District 3 continually strives to provide the highest level of service to the community with the resources we are provided.

Call volumes have increased 43% since our last staffing increase. So far in 2019, crews are responding to an average of 22 calls in a 24-hour shift. With the successful passage of last fall's General Levy Lid Lift the District is not only able to maintain current staffing, but is incrementally attempting to add staffing and has applied for a grant to add an additional six positions.

Protective equipment is essential for first responders to be able to perform their jobs effectively and safely. This spring the District made two key purchases to ensure our responders have the best protective equipment available. First, the District replaced 76 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (air tanks), upgrading from the SCBAs purchased in 2008. This replacement was funded by a \$541,033 FEMA grant with the District contributing its cost share of \$54,103. Secondly, All full-time responders were issued ballistic vest and helmets that enable them to operate within the "Warm Zone" of an active shooter event. These two types of protective equipment may someday make the difference between a victim surviving or not.

The District relies on a 10 year EMS Levy for approximately 25% of its basic funding. The EMS levy expires at the end of 2020. To maintain this essential funding source , the District will be seeking voter approval for a 10-year renewal during this November's General Election.

Additional information can be found on our web site at www.ccf3.org. I also am personally available to answer questions at (360) 683-4242 or bandrews@ccfd3.org.

Mass Casualties Preparedness

Criminal Mass Casualty Incidents (CMCI, i.e. active shooter) continue to occur around the country, both in schools and in other public settings including places of worship. These tragedies are not limited to just large communities; small communities, like Sequim, also need to be prepared to respond to all types of mass casualty emergencies as well.

In order to prepare for the potential threat, Fire District 3 recently purchased ballistic vests and helmets for all career first responders. We believe it is imperative to provide a level of protection for first responders, so they can safely enter “Warm Zones” in order to provide lifesaving interventions to victims. This defensive gear is what will allow first responders to provide an enhanced and quicker level of treatment for trauma victims. When medical care, such as Stop-The-Bleed and airway management is administered early, patients have a higher likelihood of reaching life-saving surgical intervention at a hospital. This early initial treatment significantly increases the chances of survival.

The District continues to collaborate in joint training efforts with local law enforcement and school district officials. A large CMCI drill is planned for later in 2019.

Picture taken during a Multi-Agency Mass Casualty training exercise in 2016.



SAFER Grant

Recently, Fire District 3 applied for a SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant). The District applied for this grant previously, but reluctantly turned it down because the District did not have adequate funds and reserves to meet the required match portion of the grant. Thanks to voters passing the recent Levy Lid Lift, the District now has the ability to meet the matching portion of the grant. If the District is fortunate enough to receive the grant, funds will be used to add additional firefighters to the District. With call volume increasing 43% in the last ten years and no staffing increase since 2008, additional responders are necessary to continue to provide a high level of care that the community deserves.

Picture taken during Volunteer Emergency Medical Training.



VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED: Did you know we have volunteers? Volunteers are a necessary part of our organization. Volunteer members possess a variety in training from Emergency Medical Responders to Firefighters and support personnel. To become a volunteer please visit our website at www.ccf3.org and submit a Volunteer Interest Card or visit us at our Headquarters Station located at **323 N. 5th Ave. in Sequim.**

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