



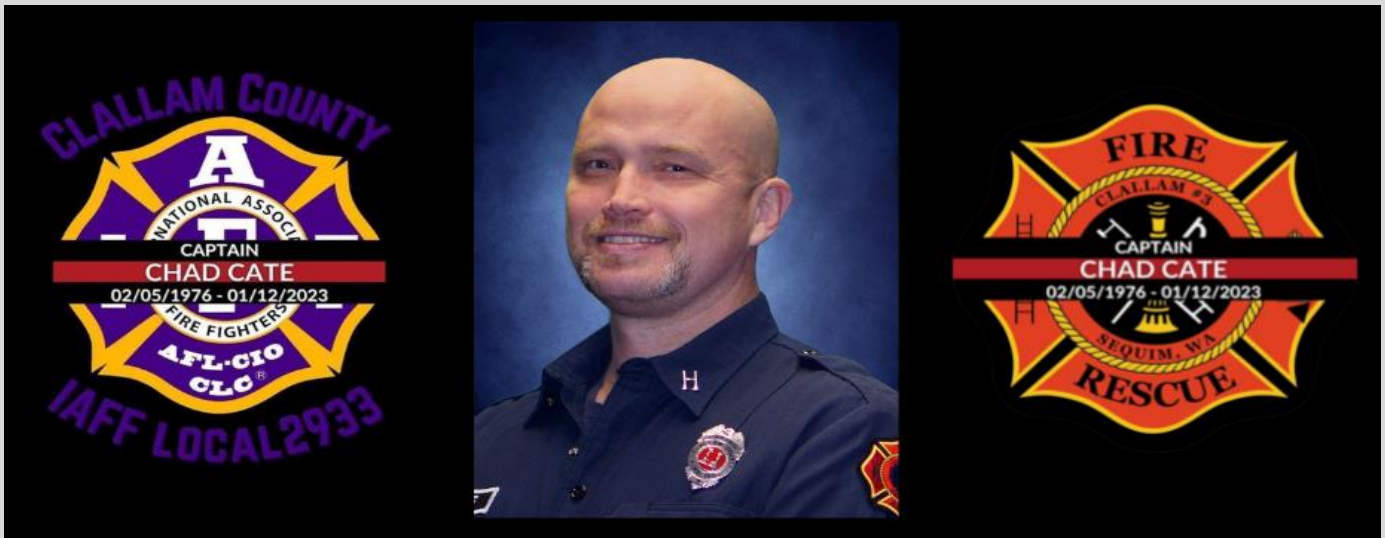
CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3 2023 Annual Report

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Clallam County Fire District 3 (Fire District 3) would be remiss not to begin the 2023 Annual Report by acknowledging the profound loss it experienced in 2023. On January 12, 2023, Charles “Chad” Thomas Cate, II, age 46, a 29-year veteran of the District, was found deceased in his bed at the Headquarters Station (Station 34).

Chad was born to Katherine “Brandy” (Mann) Cate and Charles Thomas Cate, Sr. in Kanab, Utah, on February 5, 1976. He joined the Fire District 3’s Explorer Program while in high school and, shortly after turning 18, became a full-fledged volunteer firefighter. Chad graduated from Sequim High School in 1994 and was hired as a Firefighter/EMT in July 1996. In 2001, he attended Tacoma Community College, earning his paramedic certification and an Associate of Arts degree. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2006 and to Captain in 2021.

Chad dedicated 29 years to the Fire District 3, serving the community with compassion and exceptional skill. He was a proud member of the Clallam County Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 2933. Chad married Renee Bible on June 23, 2018, in Port Angeles, Washington, and they made their home in Sequim.

Chad’s world revolved around his family, especially his wife and their three children: Ashleigh Cate, 21, a combat medic with the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Harrison Cate, 18, a Cadet 4th Class at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and their 2-year-old son, Charles “Charley” Thomas Cate, III.



About Fire District 3

Preface – Clallam County Fire District 3 (District) provides a variety of services to the City of Sequim and the surrounding area from east of Diamond Point to Deer Park Road in Port Angeles and is an essential mutual-aid resource to neighboring communities throughout the Peninsula. To fulfill its mission of service, the District maintains a cadre of highly dedicated volunteers and career members who are always ready to serve the community’s citizens with compassion and professionalism.

Mission Statement: Clallam County Fire District 3 is dedicated to excellence in serving, educating, and protecting our community through emergency medical services, fire suppression, and public education.

Vision Statement: Service Driven Through Excellence and Innovation

Core Values: Unity ~ Compassion ~ Integrity ~ Courage ~ Honor

Motto: The District’s Mission, Vision, and Values are summarized within the following motto:

Serve, Respect, Prevent & Protect

District Overview

The District, located in the eastern portion of Clallam County, includes the Gardiner community portion of Jefferson County. The District is the largest fire and emergency services provider in Clallam County; providing fire, rescue, and EMS response services to, approximately, a 142-square-mile service area while protecting an estimated 34,000 citizens.

The District responds to all types of fires, medical and rescue-related emergencies from six fire stations distributed throughout the District. Three of these stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a combination of on-duty career members that are supplemented by on-call volunteers. The other three stations are staffed exclusively with on-call volunteers. On-duty career firefighters work 24-hour shifts at Station 37 (Blyn), Station 33 (Carlsborg), and Station 34 (Sequim). Volunteers typically respond when called upon from home, work, or wherever they happen to be within the community.



District Administration

The District responded to 8,535 requests for service in 2023. EMS service requests account for 82.2% of that total number, with 75.7% of those being Basic Life Support (BLS) and 24.3% of them classified as Advanced Life Support (ALS). Fire related calls account for about 2.07% of that total, with the balance being a variety of false, unintentional, and cancelled calls.

The District is governed by a Board of three Fire Commissioners, elected for staggered 6-year terms. The Commissioners serve, at large, to represent the District’s entire service area equally, rather than being assigned to provide geographic representation.



Bill Miano
Board Chairman
Term - 2019-2025



Jeffrey Nicholas
Commissioner
Term - 2021-2027



Mike Mingee
Commissioner
Appointed 2023

The District employed 55 full-time and 3 part-time employees who are classified as follows:

3	Chief Officers
14	Captains
32	Firefighters
1	Finance Manager
2	Administrative Assistants
3	Maintenance Personnel
1	Fire Code Technician (Part-Time)
1	IT (Part-Time)
1	Volunteer Coordinator (Part-Time)

In the Spring of 2022, the Administrative Staff of the District relocated to Carlsborg. In the beginning of 2023, Maintenance Staff finished up work to add an office space for the upcoming Battalion Chiefs.

In April of 2023, Fire Chief Ben Andrews was placed on an Administrative Assignment allowing him to finish out his contract working remotely. He will retire in 2024.

Dan Orr, previously Assistant Chief of Risk Reduction, was appointed the Interim Fire Chief on April 26th, 2023.

Finance

Revenue – The County Treasurer acts as an agent to collect property tax levied on behalf of the District. In 2023, the District’s General Levy rate was \$1.131882 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Based on the assessed valuation of \$8,619,025,016 the General Levy totaled \$9,755,719. The 2023 EMS levy rate was \$.370111 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Based on the assessed valuation of \$8,661,760,407 the EMS Levy totaled \$3,205,810. A summary of the District’s 2023 revenue is shown below:

Revenue Source	Budget	Actual	Difference	% of Budget
General Property Tax	\$ 9,850,000	\$ 9,894,282	\$ 44,282	100%
EMS Property Tax	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,254,515	\$ 54,515	102%
Leasehold Excise Tax	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,639	\$ 20,639	306%
Timber Excise Tax	\$ 9,000	\$ 85,434	\$ 76,434	949%
Total Taxes	\$ 13,069,000	\$ 13,264,869	\$ 195,869	101%
State Grant Revenue	\$ 1,125	\$ 554	\$ (571)	49%
Federal Grant Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Sale of County Timber	\$ 50,000	\$ 140,521	\$ 90,521	281%
Charges For Services	\$ 88,950	\$ 125,266	\$ 36,316	141%
Ambulance Services	\$ 90,000	\$ 137,535	\$ 47,535	153%
Miscellaneous	\$ 43,400	\$ 847,037	\$ 803,637	1952%
Total Revenue	\$ 13,342,475	\$ 14,515,783	\$ 1,173,308	109%

Expenditures – The District adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund and the budget constitutes the legal authority for expenditures at that level. The budget is further appropriated at the department level and annual appropriations for these funds lapse at the fiscal year end.

The District maintains a policy statement that on-going operational expenses are to be funded by on-going revenue (new funds, not reserves). The 2023 expenditure budget totaled \$16,065,215, including \$2,942,257 for capital purchases and projects. The operating expense budget of \$13,122,958 was under the anticipated revenue for the year, thus meeting District policy requirements. In addition, actual expenditures for 2023 were significantly lower than planned.

The appropriated and actual 2023 expenditures for the General Fund, by Department were as follows:

Department	Budget	Actual	Difference	% of Budget
Commissioners	\$ 148,571	\$ 40,650	\$ (107,921)	27%
Administration	\$ 1,408,640	\$ 1,631,622	\$ 222,982	116%
Volunteers	\$ 230,421	\$ 191,456	\$ (38,966)	83%
Suppression	\$ 1,744,477	\$ 1,769,788	\$ 25,311	101%
Prevention & Risk Reduction	\$ 97,589	\$ 36,070	\$ (61,519)	37%
EMS	\$ 7,927,492	\$ 7,414,654	\$ (512,838)	94%
Other Response	\$ 41,450	\$ 33,072	\$ (8,378)	80%
Emergency Mgmt	\$ 21,250	\$ 3,103	\$ (18,147)	15%
Facilities	\$ 898,724	\$ 781,499	\$ (117,225)	87%
Vehicles	\$ 604,344	\$ 394,603	\$ (209,741)	65%
Capital	\$ 2,942,257	\$ 2,080,464	\$ (861,793)	71%
Total	\$ 16,065,215	\$ 14,376,980	\$ (1,688,235)	89%

Grant Status – During 2023, the District:

- Received \$554 from the WA Department of Health.

Operations & Training

In 2023, the District’s Safety Committee continued to implement steps to foster a culture of safety within the organization in the prevention of workplace accidents and injuries. Though only required to meet quarterly the committee adopted a monthly meeting schedule that included virtual meetings via Zoom and look remain in place in perpetuity. The increased meeting frequency enabled Committee members to identify and address safety issues more efficiently and communicate safety messages more regularly.

The Safety Committee also continues “Safety Briefings” conducted by Safety Committee members at the beginning of volunteer and career training events to enhance the integration of workplace safety into the District’s ongoing training programs. John McKenzie provided most volunteer safety briefings, while career committee members lead shift briefings.

Safety Committee members continue to provide updates to the labor body at union meetings and solicit agenda items to address concerns at future committee meetings. The Safety Committee has also started a reciprocal process of reviewing notes in comparison with the Training Committee to increase communication and reporting.

Below is a summary of reportable (OSHA 300) workplace injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2023:

Total Number of Cases			
Number of Deaths	Number of cases with days away from work	Number of cases with job transfer or restriction	Number of other recordable cases
1	4(9 days)	0	0
Total Injury & Illness Types			
Injuries:	4	Poisonings:	0
Skin Disorders:	0	Hearing Loss:	0
Respiratory conditions:	0	All other illnesses:	0

Incident Data**Calls for Service**

Incident Type	Number of Incidents by Type	Percentage of Total Incidents by Type
ALS	1627	19%
ALS-CPR	59	1%
ALS-STEMI	15	0%
BLS	3,845	45%
BLS-Service	904	11%
BLS Service Invalid Assist	564	7%
MVA-BLS	51	1%
MVA-ALS	20	0%
Brush/Grass Fire	44	1%
Brush/Grass Fire from Illegal Burn	6	0%
Chimney Fire	3	0%
Illegal Burning	55	1%
Miscellaneous Fire	19	0%
Smoke Complaint/Controlled Burning	139	2%
Structure Fire-Commercial	0	0%
Structure Fire-Residential	29	0%
Carbon Monoxide, w CO	3	0%
Vehicle Fire	16	0%
False Alarm	134	2%
Alarm System Activation (No Fire)	47	1%
Carbon Monoxide, No CO	7	0%
Unable to Locate/Cancelled Enroute	410	5%
MVA-Service	61	1%
Overheated Equipment	5	0%
Power Line Down	9	0%
Service Call (Smoke, Water, etc)	65	1%
Service Call-Other	141	2%
Rope/High Angle	1	0%
Confined Space Rescue	1	0%
Surface Water Rescue	1	0%
Swiftwater Rescue	2	0%
Hazardous Materials	18	0%
Mutual Aid Given for a Fire	5	0%
Dispatch Error	125	1%
Dispatch Training	0	0%
Dispatch Test	4	0%
Service Call Olympic Amb Only	100	1%
Total:	8,535	100.00%

Metrics

Metrics

Clallam County Fire District #3

2023

Structure Fires



29

EMS



7024

Carbon Monoxide



10

Motor Vehicle
Accidents



122

Falls



1468

Smoke Detectors
Installed



85+

False or Malicious
Alarms



181

Overdoses



11+

Unauthorized
Burning



126

Introduction to Community Risk Reduction



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the *integrated* and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact. CRR is further broken down into five (5) components which are; 1. Emergency Response, 2. Education, 3. Engineering, 4. Enforcement, 5. Economic Incentives.

2023 provided the District many opportunities to invest in activities that helped impact our local Community Risk Reduction.

Emergency Response: Fire District 3 improved emergency response through the restructuring of the staffing model with the addition of Battalion Chiefs, promotions to Captain, and hiring of additional firefighters and paramedics.

Education: According to the National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov) Sequim School District has a total student population of 2602. Fire District 3 provided fire safety education training to over half of these students during Fire Prevention Month in October 2023. Coordination with local educators at both elementary schools within our service area served as our first major re-introduction following the COVID-19 epidemic. In addition, fire and life safety education presentations were made to a variety of multi-family residential facilities and service groups such as The Vintage at Sequim, Sequim Bay Yacht Club, and Baker View Homeowner's Association. Another successful educational program has been the Fire District 3 Fire Extinguisher Education Program. Over 200 local employees were trained in the proper use of a variety of fire extinguishers utilizing our live fire demonstration prop. The District issued 114 CPR cards during our monthly Public CPR Education opportunities, along with many more of our hands-only CPR instructions at numerous local events.

Engineering: Fire District 3 participated in planning meetings with the City of Sequim throughout the year. Clallam County Community Development reached out for feedback on projects requiring public comment and various access concerns. This coordinated cooperation allows us to voice fire and life safety concerns in the design phase. Fire inspections were conducted on an as needed basis due to promotions and vacancies.

Enforcement: The City of Sequim and Clallam County both hold the Authority Having Jurisdiction to enforce compliance with Fire and Life Safety codes. The District focusses on educating the business owners and documenting the compliance through re-inspections.

Economic Incentives: Our goal for economic incentives focuses on reducing insurance costs for our community. Risk and hazard mitigation, when managed before an incident, can have a huge financial impact.

New Hires and Promotions



John McKenzie
Volunteer Coordinator
Hired: April 1, 2023



Ryan Hueter
Firefighter/EMT
Hired: August 1, 2023



Elizabeth Hagaman
Firefighter/Paramedic
Hired: August 1, 2023



William Pyle
Firefighter/Paramedic
Hired: August 1, 2023



Tanner Cupps
Firefighter/EMT
Hired: August 1, 2023



Christopher Rudnick
Firefighter/Paramedic
Hired: August 1, 2023



Marquita Espinoza
Firefighter/Paramedic
Hired: August 1, 2023



Jacob Stanley
Firefighter/EMT
Hired: August 1, 2023



Travis Anderson
Captain
Promoted: March 1, 2023



Jack Hueter
Captain
Promoted: March 1, 2023



Chris Turner
Battalion Chief
A-Shift
Promoted: May 1, 2023



Stefanie Anderson
Battalion Chief
B-Shift
Promoted: May 1, 2023



Elliott Jones
Battalion Chief
C-Shift
Hired: May 1, 2023



Celebrating John McAndie’s Retirement

John McAndie retired on December 31, 2023, after an incredible 17 years of service as a volunteer Firefighter/EMT with the District. Alongside his volunteer work, John dedicated his career to the Sequim School District as their Maintenance Supervisor.

John was always the first to step up when it came to driving the Tender Trucks, earning a reputation as a highly skilled and dependable driver/operator. His commitment extended beyond operations—he was an active and dedicated member of the Volunteer Association for many years, contributing greatly to its success.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to John for his many years of service and dedication to both the District and the community. Wishing him all the best in his well-deserved retirement!

Volunteer Recruit Academy – The District, in conjunction with the Washington State Fire Academy and Clallam County Fire District 2, delivered a Fire Recruit Academy. There were 10 students, 3 being from District 3.

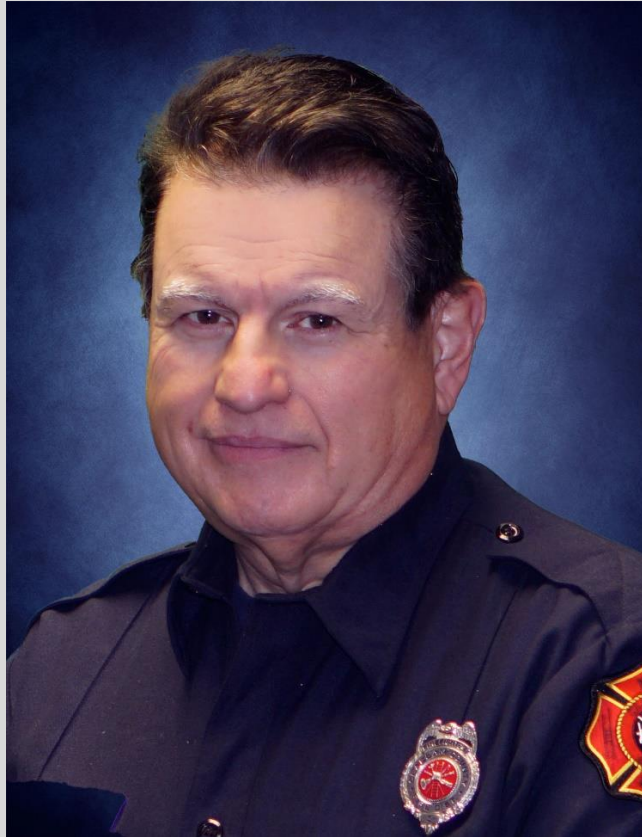


2023 Training – Here is a sample of some of the training offered and attended in 2023:

Rescue Systems 1	IFSAC Fire Officer 1, and 2 and 3
Critical Incident Stress Management	IFSAC Fire Fighter 1 and 2
NFA Leadership Series	IFSAC Fire Instructor 1
Incident Safety Officer	Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention
Confined Space Technical Rescue	National Fire Academy Classes

In 2023, Fire District 3 members completed **13,823** hours of training! This training can range from Emergency Medical Services, fire training, to wildland and technical rescue training.

CPR Classes – The District held monthly CPR classes all year in 2023. 109 citizens were taught through this program.



One of Clallam County Fire District 3's most active volunteer firefighters recently received a top state honor for his efforts. Blaine Zechenelly, as pictured above, was named Washington State Firefighters' Association 2023 Volunteer EMS Responder of the Year per the State of Washington. He was recognized during the 100th Annual Washington State Fire Fighters' Association Banquet on May 20th, 2023. The nomination included comments such as "he's made a real difference in people's lives, and he has done it all as a volunteer" and "Blaine is perhaps the hardest working, most selfless individual I have ever met". In 2020, the Zechenellys, Blaine and his wife Cindy, received the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards for their efforts helping with disaster preparedness. Blaine truly possesses a servant's heart!

Support Services

CERT Volunteer Activities -OVERVIEW OF THE CCFD3 SPONSORED CERT PROGRAM

Clallam County must prepare for a potentially devastating Cascadia Earthquake that could isolate the Olympic Peninsula by severely damaging its infrastructure, cutting off access to outside resources for weeks or months. To address this, CCFD3 has expanded its CERT program beyond the standard FEMA model, training citizen volunteers to support local First Responders in emergencies. These CERT members are trained to provide vital services such as distributing food, water, and first aid, and managing traffic, while serving as a reassuring presence in their own communities. Their preparation also enables them to assist in smaller emergencies, enhancing overall public safety.

Food Bank Operations and Food Distribution

The Sequim Food Bank and the Feed America Program continue to partner with our Sequim Operational Area (SOA) CERT volunteers to support a needed food distribution mission. Our local area is home to a significant number of needy families. Extra food is available for them, but it takes willing volunteers to marshal the eligible traffic into position and then load the food into the families’ vehicles. The Sequim Food Bank distributed over 1062 family meal boxes on 19 November and 1200 holiday meal boxes to needy families on 15 December 2023. In addition to assisting with traffic management and loading the food, CERT volunteers also kept records on total food volume delivered and numbers of cars served. The two distribution events only required a few hours of work, but the visible contributions of our willing volunteers were seen and appreciated by our Sequim community.

This is a prime example of **“Neighbors Helping Neighbors.”**



Safety and Information Fair

Sequim enjoyed its 1st annual Public Safety & Information Fair on November 4th, 2023, at the Guy Cole Convention Center. Despite the rainy weather, the Fair attracted upwards of 1300 visitors. The Fair served our community in multiple ways. It was designed to increase public awareness of the various agencies and organizations that are actively working to serve and protect us; it promoted greater interagency cooperation in public safety matters; and it highlighted the CERT Program as a great way for willing volunteers to serve our communities.



Irrigation Parade Participation

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, our CERT Program volunteers were once again able to march in the Sequim **Irrigation Festival** Parade. CERT recruiting is typically accomplished by word-of-mouth advocacy, but this annual parade helps to keep the Program in the public eye. Natural attrition of our members requires that we continue to look for ways to attract new volunteers. This parade is just one way to accomplish that purpose. We also added the **Sunshine Festival** to our list of events and expanded the scope of our assistance at the **Lavender Festival**.



CERT Search & Rescue Exercises at Station #32

September was a busy month at Fire Station #32 near R-Corner on Hwy 101. Our CERT Program hosted Search & Rescue training exercises for each of our Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). These S&R drills continued through the entire month of September 2023 which has given each team a chance to try out their Search and Rescue skills and learn how to refine their team effectiveness. The purpose of these exercises is to prepare our teams to perform their respective missions in the event of a real disaster. We use training opportunities such as this to improve our effectiveness in responding to such an event.



CERT Members receive Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

Fire District #3 Chief Dan Orr presented Presidential awards to (L to R) **Linda Enger**, **Ernylee Chamlee**, and **Lynne Schlosser**

Three volunteer members of Clallam County Fire District 3’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program were named as Silver Service recipients of the President’s Volunteer Service Award for 2022. Under the auspices of AmeriCorps and Points of Light, Fire District #3 Chief Dan Orr officially presented a Presidential Volunteer Service Awards on June 9 to each of these exceptional volunteers. Each Silver Award represents 250-499 hours of uncompensated, volunteer service donated during one calendar year. The purpose of the Fire District’s CERT Program is to develop and deploy a cadre of trained citizen volunteers who would be able to safely augment our local First-Responders during times of disaster.



CERT Participations for the Captain Charles “Chad” Cate Memorial

The memorial event featured over 80 fire vehicles and 20 police vehicles in a miles-long memorial procession. The caisson with Captain Cate had already reached Sequim Avenue as the last unit turned onto Hwy 101 from the staging area in Carlsborg. Hundreds of cars were stopped on the freeway; people got out of their vehicles and saluted the caisson as it passed by.

CONCLUSION

CERT members are your friends, neighbors, co-workers and trained professionals who have chosen to volunteer their valuable time and resources to make a difference in our local community. They have completed the FEMA-sponsored Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program that has prepared them to respond to possible emergency situations in our immediate area. When deployed as Washington State Emergency Workers, CERT volunteers serve us all by augmenting and providing critical mission support to our very limited numbers of professional First Responder personnel. CERT members may also be called upon to assist with non-emergency activities that help to improve the safety and well-being of everyone here on the Olympic Peninsula.



In conclusion, Fire District 3 extends its heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated volunteer and career members whose unwavering support and commitment make our work possible. It is through their collective efforts that Clallam County Fire District 3 can successfully carry out its mission:

Clallam County Fire District 3 is dedicated to excellence in serving, educating, and protecting our community through emergency medical services, fire suppression, and public education.

Thank you for your service and dedication to our community.

-Fire District Administration



Visit WWW.CCFD3.ORG