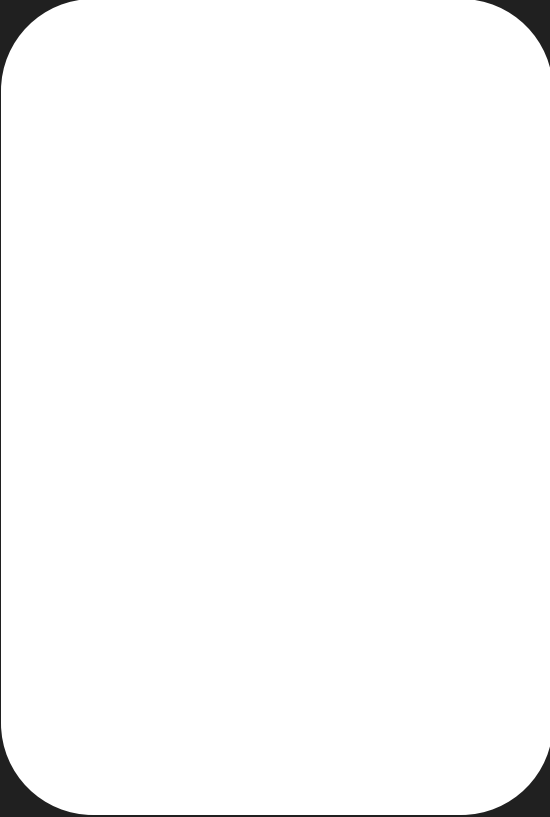



# Clallam County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

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## Battalion Chiefs

On May 1st, 2023, Clallam County Fire District 3 announced the promotion of two internal candidates and the hiring of one external candidate for the newly created position of Battalion Chief. This decision was driven by the organization's growth and the need to restructure in order to meet increasing demands. The restructuring process began several months ago when Lieutenants within the District were promoted to the rank of Captains. This was done to make current officers eligible to participate in the internal promotion process for the Battalion Chief positions.

The District initiated the recruitment process in early 2023, and testing for the position was conducted in February. Following the completion of the testing phase, conditional offers were extended to three qualified candidates, one external and two internal. These actions reflect the District's commitment to enhancing its leadership structure and aligning it with the evolving requirements of the organization.

Left, Elliott Jones, comes to us from Las Vegas where he was a 20-year veteran, prior to Las Vegas he worked in Spokane. BC Jones is the Battalion Chief for C-Shift.

Middle, Chris Turner, was hired in 1999, promoted to Lieutenant in 2008 and to Captain in 2010. BC Turner is the Battalion Chief for A-Shift.

Right, Stefanie Anderson, was hired in 2006, promoted to Lieutenant in 2019 and promoted to Captain in 2021. BC Anderson is the Battalion Chief for B-Shift.



**Help us in welcoming the new Battalion Chiefs!!**

## EMS Volunteer of the Year

Please help us in congratulating Blaine Zechenelly who was named “Washington’s Volunteer EMS Responder of the Year”. This took place on May 20th, 2023, at the Washington State Fire Fighters’

Association’s (WSFFA) 100th-anniversary conference in Wenatchee for 2023!

Blaine has been a dedicated volunteer with Clallam County Fire District 3 for ten years. He responds to hundreds of emergency calls annually, showcasing reliability and dedication. Blaine takes pride in his role with the District's rehab unit and providing support to frontline emergency personnel. Despite encountering various emergencies, he remains composed and focused, understanding the importance of being there for people in need. Blaine's commitment has earned him respect and admiration from fellow members and the community.

Blaine also leads the local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), training over 800 community members and coordinating events throughout the year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Blaine and CERT volunteers played a crucial role in running a successful vaccine clinic, and administering vaccines to a large portion of the community.

Most recently, CERT managed parking during a funeral honoring a fallen firefighter. Blaine's exceptional achievements highlight his unwavering dedication to keeping the community safe and helping others in any way he can.

Blaine's wife, Cindy, Fire Chief Dan Orr, and Firefighter/EMT Jaisal White attended the ceremony to celebrate this achievement.



## Fire Prevention

The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 55% lower in homes with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or none that worked (www.nfpa.org 2021). A robust smoke detector information campaign is one of our leading fire prevention strategies. On July 09, 2023, Clallam County Fire District #3 (District) firefighters experienced firsthand how a working smoke alarm alerted a local family to a fire, allowing them to safely evacuate the structure, before destroying the home.

In 2022, the District responded to twenty one structure fires within our response area and an additional seven mutual aid fires. That averages out to 2.33 structure fires per month.

2023, as a whole, is proving to be an exceptional fire season. On June



Evans Road Fire  
(2023)

14, 2023, the Clallam County Fire Marshal initiated burn restrictions two weeks early due to current conditions and then on July 7th, 2023 they initiated a **FULL BURN BAN**, meaning no burning of yard debris and no recreational fires are allowed at this time. The wildfire risk was revealed as numerous small brush/grass fires required local fire crews to extinguish.

On June 17, 2023, a large wildfire, “The Sutherland Fire”, tapped local resources as the fire destroyed 96 acres before being contained.

On July 4, 2023, the District sent two firefighters and an engine to Forks for a large, fast-growing, wildfire that destroyed two structures.

The District has twenty members with special wildland training, having earned their “Red Cards” for the 2023 season. They are ready to respond to fires in our service area and are also available to deploy, as needed, to wildfires throughout the state and region.

Preparedness can help you reduce risks and protect your home and neighborhood from fire. Visit [www.FIREWISE.org](http://www.FIREWISE.org) to learn more about wildfire prevention tips and recommendations. Stay safe!