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Chief's Corner

Welcoming Chief Grider



On January 16th, 2024, the District extended a conditional offer of employment to Justin Grider for the Fire Chief position. Chief Grider accepted the position and will start on March 1st, 2024. Chief Grider comes to the District with a distinguished career, working his way through the ranks, ultimately serving as the Deputy Fire Chief of the Los Alamos Fire Department. More recently, he held the position of Deputy Fire Chief at Clallam County Fire District 2 in Port Angeles.

Chief Grider's dedication to community safety, demonstrated through his ability to forge partnerships across the Olympic Peninsula, makes him the ideal Fire Chief candidate. His extensive emergency response experience and commitment align with District 3's mission to safeguard lives and property. Chief Grider will assume the position, succeeding Interim Chief Daniel Orr, who has led the District since May of 2023 and previously served as an Assistant Chief from 2015.

Residing in Sequim with his wife and son, Chief Grider also has a grown daughter living in Minnesota. Beyond his professional commitments, he has a passion for bird hunting and actively participates in teaching HazMat classes all over the world. Excited to assume the role of Fire Chief in his hometown, Chief Grider looks forward to meeting community members and serving the District with dedication and enthusiasm.

Live Fire Training



In a collaborative effort to enhance emergency response capabilities, Clallam County Fire District 3 recently received a generous donation — a house designated for demolition was used for controlled burning to facilitate live fire training. This valuable opportunity allowed approximately 50-60 local emergency responders to actively participate in a realistic and dynamic training event on January 20th, 2024.

The donated house served as a crucial asset for the live fire training, providing a real-life environment for emergency responders to hone their skills and refine their firefighting techniques. The event was a testament to the District's commitment to ensuring the highest level of preparedness and efficiency in handling fire emergencies.

A key factor in the event's success was the meticulous preparation undertaken by Battalion Chief Anderson, who organized and executed the live fire training with assistance from Captain Lawson and the Maintenance division. Several other agencies were able to use the house for training. CERT and the Sheriff's Department used the structure for training in the days that lead up to the final burning. The live fire training assisted in fostering further collaboration among Fire District 2, 3 and the City of Port Angeles Fire Department.

For a structure to be considered for live fire training, it needs to meet a long list of requirements and most structures do not qualify. It was a team effort of many people that made the event a success, reinforcing Public Safety's commitment here on the peninsula to safeguard the lives and property of its residents.

Fire Extinguisher Safety

Patented in 1723 by Ambrose Godfrey, the first recorded fire extinguisher contained gunpowder. Three-hundred years later, members of Clallam County Fire District 3 continued the tradition, having a "blast" teaching over 500 community members how to operate the modern fire extinguisher safely.

According to the Washington Administrative Code, "If the employer provides portable fire extinguishers for employee use, then the employer must also provide training to familiarize employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved in fighting fires when they first appear...training when the employee is first hired and at least annually thereafter".

District's firefighters provide a comprehensive extinguisher experience. Utilizing a propane "live fire" prop, each student is afforded the opportunity to go through the steps of using an extinguisher. During trainings, the District uses the mnemonic "PASS", which stands for Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep the spray at the base of the fire.

Additionally, the instructors encourage positive fire safety messages, like "Close before you Doze", to emphasize the survivability of those who sleep with their bedroom doors closed at night.

Practicing fire safety and being prepared in an emergency can help reduce your risks of injury and protect your property from the damaging effects of fire. Visit www.cfd3.org to learn more about fire prevention tips and recommendations. Please contact us if you are interested in having our team come teach you fire extinguisher safety.

www.cfd3.org (scan code) or 360.683.4242



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