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Clallam County Fire District 3
N E W S L E T T E R

Chief's Corner



We hope this newsletter finds you well. As your local Fire District, we are committed to providing high-quality emergency services to our growing community. We want to inform you about some developments within the District. The District closely monitors change in its response area for several important reasons.

Fire Prevention and Protection

To ensure fire prevention and protection, the District collaborates with the City of Sequim by employing a Fire Code Technician. This technician works in conjunction with the City's Fire Marshal to conduct inspections on new construction. These inspections are vital for ensuring that buildings meet current code requirements, helping to prevent unnecessary fire and life safety hazards.

Ensuring Response Readiness

Being response-ready is a top priority for the District. The District familiarizes itself with all new developments and infrastructure to ensure that personnel are prepared for any emergency. Crews create pre-incident plans for many commercial properties. These plans are crucial tools used during emergencies to safeguard both citizens and responders.

Managing Increased Call Volume

Growth in the District's response area often leads to an increase in emergency calls. To manage this, the District must ensure it has sufficient staff to handle the rising call volume. This is becoming increasingly challenging as the District's growth rate strains financial resources.

Commitment to Public Safety

As the community continues to expand, the District remains dedicated to protecting the citizens it serves. By maintaining rigorous fire prevention standards, staying prepared for emergencies, and addressing increased call volumes, the District strives to uphold the highest levels of public safety.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as the District works together with its citizens to keep this community safe and resilient!

Multi-Agency Marine Training

Maroon Coyote, a comprehensive maritime field training exercise, culminated in a successful live operation aboard the Black Ball Ferry Vessel, The MV Coho, on April 30, 2024. This multi-agency initiative, led by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Puget Sound and the U.S. Border Patrol (BP) Port Angeles, underscored the importance of coordinated emergency response efforts to protect and support citizens. The exercise was named "Maroon Coyote" by BP agents in honor of the victims of the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, a community close to the hearts of many participants.

Planning for Maroon Coyote began on November 1, 2022, with initial meetings and tabletop exercises. Throughout 2023, a series of strategic activities, including agency ride-a-longs on The MV Coho, sector-wide alert tests, and multiple planning meetings, laid the groundwork for the live exercise. These efforts resulted in a final command cadre meeting and a comprehensive walk-through in April 2024. Initial invitations for the exercise were extended to every agency in East Clallam County (from Port Angeles east). The final participants included the United States Coast Guard, Black Ball Ferry Line, US Border Patrol, US Customs Field Office, US Customs Air and Marine, Port of Port Angeles, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Washington State Patrol, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, Sequim Police Department, and Clallam County Fire District 3 (District).

The exercise saw the deployment of various assets, including two USCG boats, one DFW boat, one Customs Air and Marine boat, and one USCG helicopter. The District played a crucial role by fielding a Fire Incident Commander for unified command and having Dr. Craven, the Medical Program Director, at the command post. The District also committed two Rescue Task Force teams with supervisors (totaling six personnel), provided a Safety Officer, and assigned two Chief Officers to audit the scenarios. The primary objectives tested during the exercise were response capability, communications efficiency, and rescue operation capability during a simulated ship-board emergency.

The live training brought together various agencies to simulate real-world maritime emergencies, enhancing inter-agency coordination and operational readiness. Maroon Coyote not only reinforced collective commitment to maritime security, but also underscored the critical importance of preparedness in safeguarding the community against future tragedies. An After Action Review is currently being compiled by the USCG and will be released at a date to be determined.

Ultimately, exercises like Maroon Coyote are essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of local communities. By continuously improving emergency response capabilities, local agencies demonstrate unwavering support and dedication to protecting the lives and livelihoods of their citizens.

Community Education

In 2023, the District introduced Battalion Chiefs, each one oversees a key initiative. One Initiative is Community Risk Reduction (CRR) and Fire Prevention. CRR is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integral and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact. Over the past year, the District has participated in numerous community events, some of which are highlighted below:

PUBLIC CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES - CPR Classes are held monthly at the District, and were delivered to Clallam PUD, Boy Scouts, Sequim Physicians, and Sunland Residents.

FIRE PREVENTION TRAINING - Delivered to Red Cross Dungeness Area, Greywolf Elementary School, Helen Haller Elementary School, Sequim Little League. Station Tours at the District's Headquarters, Unity of Effort, Sequim's Little Explorers, Diamond Point Fly-In, Sequim Boys and Girls Club, Ace Hardware Grand Opening, North Olympic Library System, Fairview Bible School, Red Cross Emerald Highlands, Lavender Festival, Wedel Home School, Faith Lutheran School, Guy Cole Convention Center, Classical Conversations Home School.

FIRE ENGINE RIDES - Given to the Sequim School Turkey Trot.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL STANDBY - Held at NODM, Sequim High School Sports Games, Dept. of Natural Resources Pack Testing, Music in the Park (summer months), Sequim Fourth of July Fireworks, Sequim Sunshine Festival, Sequim Irrigation Festival.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING - Given to Costco, PUD, City of Sequim Public Works, Cedars at Dungeness.

ENGINES VISITED- Lavender Meadows BBQ, Adagio Car Show, Sequim ASL Chat Group, Country Acres Childcare, Fire Extinguisher Training, Sparky's Birthday, Greywolf Elementary, Helen Haller Elementary.

CERT - Provided support at the Food Bank Holiday Meal Distribution, Soroptimist Garden Show, Frosty Moss Relay, Fourth of July Fireworks, Sequim ASL Chat Group.

MISC. EVENTS—

Fire Drill Training - Greywolf Elementary School, Sequim High School.

Community Risk Reduction Activities - Sequim Bay Yacht Club.

Hands-Only CPR Training for Multiple Organizations

Agave Remembrance

Santa's Fire Brigade

Juvenile Fire Setter - Two Interviews

Read Across America - Greywolf Elementary School.

Senior Safety and Fire Prevention - The Vintage at Sequim.

To participate in Community Risk Reduction and Prevention Activities, contact Battalion Chief Chris Turner at cturner@ccfd3.org or visit ww.ccf3.org.

