

Clallam County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Chief's Corner



Saying Goodbye to a combined 84 Years of Service!

Clallam County Fire District 3 (District) has been notified that 3 of its long-time employees will be retiring in 2022. These three members have a combined total of just over 84 years of service with the Fire District. They have dedicated their careers to public service and have contributed greatly to the District and the care of the citizens of Eastern Clallam County. I would like to take the time to tell you a little about these members and ask you to join me in saying thank you and goodbye!



In March of 1987, Ron Whitney started as a volunteer with the District. In January of 1996, he was hired as a full-time career Firefighter Paramedic. Ron is perhaps the best paramedic when it comes to being a patient advocate. Ron spends the time to find solutions both medically and socially for his patients.



In October of 1987, Mathew Newell started as a volunteer with the District. In November of 1992, he was hired as a full-time career Firefighter Paramedic. Over the years, Matt has taught the EMT program through Peninsula College. Matt has also been the main preceptor for new medics for many years. Matt set expectations of excellence in medicine which has transcended through the District and is the norm for our organization.



In October of 2006, Ryan Tillman was hired on as a full time career Firefighter Paramedic with the District. In April of 2011 he was promoted to Lieutenant Paramedic and in October of 2021 he was promoted to Captain Paramedic. Ryan has a strong attention to detail and is constantly looking for things that can be improved. Ryan cares deeply for the members of the District and is very supportive of their needs both on and off duty.

The District, and our community, sincerely appreciate their hard work and efforts over the years. Thank you Firefighter Paramedic Whitney, Firefighter Paramedic Newell and Captain Paramedic Tillman for your many wonderful years of service! You will be missed.



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Low Acuity Unit

District staff started researching the idea of a Low Acuity Unit (LAU) early in 2020. The concept originated when staff realized that a majority of calls members were being dispatched to were not life threatening, and often were not even truly urgent. These calls, commonly referred to as “Low Acuity Calls”, do not need two-person paramedic crews to respond; thus the idea of a LAU. The question being considered was: would it be feasible for the District to create a single person unit to respond to these calls, allowing two-person paramedic units to stay available for the truly urgent responses? After much discussion between the Board of Commissioners, Labor, Management and staff, the LAU was placed in service March 24, 2021 for a 6-month trial. Firefighter EMT Scott Dickson was appointed as the member to staff the LAU during the trial period. Firefighter Dickson is an EMT, which is a medical provider who can offer Basic Life Support skills, therefore, if the call is later determined to need Advanced Life Support, he can upgrade the call after initiating care while awaiting the two-person medic crews to arrive. During the trial, FF Dickson responded to 197 incidents. Those incidents included BLS-Service/Lift Assists, Service Calls, Illegal Burns, Smoke Complaints and Alarm Activations with no fire. Additionally, the LAU responds in tandem on high acuity calls such as structure fires, motor vehicle collisions, CPR in progress, etc.

Some of the major advantages to the LAU were identified as:

- Paramedic Units were allowed to respond to calls that they would not have otherwise been able to had they been responding to the LAU calls.
- On-duty members were able to complete uninterrupted training sessions on many occasions.
- The correct level of service was delivered to the community.
- Job satisfaction increased when members felt they were being utilized effectively.
- Pre-fire planning has become a primary project for the LAU. Pre-fire plans are plans created for commercial occupancies which describe the structures and how fires would be fought prior to an event occurring. The LAU oversees development, distribution and updating of the pre-fire plans.

After the 6-month trial was completed, staff presented a report to the Board of Commissioners, discussing whether or not the LAU accomplished the intent and if it did, whether or not to continue the position. Commissioners saw the benefit the LAU was providing to the District and have requested the unit be placed into service permanently. FF Dickson really enjoys the position and will remain as the LAU responder.



Burning Information

This time of year, Clallam County Fire District 3 receives hundreds of inquiries regarding outdoor residential and recreational fires. Typically, burn restrictions are lifted October 1st each year and this is when residential fires are allowed.

Residential Fires – Residential fires are defined as burning of leaves, clippings, pruning debris and other yard and gardening refuse originating on the maintained area of residential property. Winter burn regulations, in effect from October 1st – June 30th, allow a residential burn pile of up to 10' x 10' x 5'. No residential fire shall be commenced before sunrise and no material may be added after sunset. In Sequim and Carlsborg, Residential burning is only allowed outside the UGA. You can find the most up to date maps of these areas at:

<https://ccfd3.org/community-outreach/copy-of-burn-permits>.

Recreational Fires - Recreational fires are defined as camp fires and cooking fires, using dry, seasoned firewood or charcoal in designated areas or on private property. Fires used for disposal purposes are not recreational fires. Where allowed, recreational fires are limited to 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Recreational fires are allowed in the UGA when no Burn Ban is in effect.

Do –

- Fires must be attended at all times and must be extinguished when burning is complete;
- Be aware of the smoke fires cause and how it may affect your neighbors;
- Fires must be at least 50 feet away from any building, wooden fence, trees, or other flammable structure;
- Check weather conditions prior to burning; don't burn during stagnant or high wind conditions;
- When appropriate, use burning alternatives.

Don't –

- Burn garbage or construction debris;
- Do not call 911 if someone is burning a fire and are following all of the rules or if there is a neighborly dispute and there is not a true emergency or rule violation;
- Burn more than one pile at a time.

Commonly used term definition -

- **Burn Ban** - A Burn ban is when there is no residential or recreational fires allowed.
- **Burn Restrictions** - When residential fires are not allowed, but recreational fires are.