



Clallam County Fire District 3

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Another Clean Audit for Clallam County Fire District 3

SEQUIM, WASH. – Clallam County Fire District 3 passed its current state audit with flying colors. The agency actually saved taxpayers \$3,000 because it was organized and prepared when meeting with state officials.

“It’s important that our community know we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” said Fire Chief Ben Andrews. “Transparency is critical to taxpayers who trust us with their hard-earned money.”

Independent audits are a requirement of any publicly funded agency in the state. The state auditor’s office said, “The reduction in [audit] costs is primarily due to the responsiveness of District management and staff, the strength of the District’s internal controls, and the fact that documentation was well-organized and readily available.”

This report covered Fire District 3’s accountability and financial statements for the years 2016-2017. A copy of the reports can be viewed at www.sao.wa.gov.

The fire district primarily funds emergency medical service and fire suppression through two property tax levies. Voters originally approved a general levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2004.

Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the District to collecting roughly the same amount of revenue per year. As a result, the general levy has fallen to \$1.26/\$1,000.

The fire district is considering asking voters to approve a levy lid lift of 24 cents to maintain emergency service levels, improve staffing where possible, train personnel, and fund some facility and apparatus needs. If approved, the levy lid lift would be an additional \$60 per year (\$5 per month) for the owner of a \$250,000 home.

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Since 1914 residents of Clallam County have volunteered their time and financial support to provide emergency services for the greater Sequim community. Today Clallam County Fire District 3 provides a 24-hour fire and emergency medical response to 30,000 people with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time personnel. We respond to an average of 7,300 emergency calls per year, and appreciate the support from our community.