



# Clallam County Fire District 3

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ClallamFD3

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 13, 2018  
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### **Clallam 3 Fire Chief Available to Speak on General Levy Lid lift**

SEQUIM, WASH. – Clallam County Fire District 3 is asking the community to consider a lid lift during the November 6 General Election to return the general levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Fire Chief Ben Andrews is available to speak to local community groups and homeowner associations.

“We are doing everything possible to communicate with our community about what’s being proposed,” said Chief Andrews. “We have information on our web site, Facebook page and Twitter account. We’re partnering with the news media to get information out, and including it in our newsletter. Still, I think the face-to-face communication is the most important – and that’s the part I like the most.”

Interested parties can contact Chief Andrew’s office at (360) 683-4242 or email [bandrews@ccfd3.org](mailto:bandrews@ccfd3.org) to schedule a presentation. The presentation includes a brief Emergency Services Update that provides an overview of the fire district, its territory and the services it provides as well as revenue and expenditure charts with an explanation of how the fire district is funded.

In order to continue to provide the current level of service and consider some modest capital improvements, the District will have to generate more revenue. Fire District expenses will exceed revenue in 2019 and start draining emergency reserves to simply maintain current service levels. If this continues, the Fire District will not have adequate reserves to fund payroll and routine expense claims by 2022.

The fire district is funded by two levies: one for EMS and a general levy for fire and other emergencies. The general levy accounts for a majority of emergency services funding, which also includes EMS costs.

Call volume history is of particular interest as it shows the fire district has experienced a 33 percent increase in the past seven years, and emergencies have tripled in the last 20 years. This is largely due to the aging population in the Sequim area, which relies heavily on emergency medical service. In 2017, EMS calls accounted for 86 percent of all emergencies (7,300 calls total) in Clallam County Fire District 3.

Voters originally approved a general levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2004. Since that time, it has fallen to \$1.26. If approved, the 24-cent lid lift would be approximately an additional \$5 per month for the owner of a \$250,000 home. Funding would be used to maintain emergency service levels, the disaster preparedness program, improve staffing where possible, train personnel, and fund facility and apparatus needs.

The general levy rate is capped by law at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The ballot measure would allow the fire district to maintain its revenue stream for six years by either the statutory one percent or the Consumer Price Index for the region, whichever is greater.

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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.*