



CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE DISTRICT DISPATCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

CLALLAMFIRE2.ORG

CHIEF'S MESSAGE:

Update on Projects, Apparatus, Fire Stations

by Fire Chief Jake Patterson

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your time that you are giving to read this newsletter. I am extremely proud of what our Fire District continues to accomplish and the dedicated volunteer and career personnel who make it a success. I am honored to share this information about what is going on in your fire district to not only showcase your fire district, but also keep you informed about what opportunities and challenges we see moving forward.

These last few years have been a challenge to say the least. As we move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to ensure that the fire district is in a position to provide excellent and reliable service to our citizens.

There are several major challenges that need to be faced in the upcoming years, which will determine how we move forward. Much of that path will be determined by you, the voters. I know that each and every member of the fire district is proud to serve their community and look forward to the opportunity to improve services and better meet your needs.

A couple major projects are still progressing forward and I wanted to give you a quick update. The first is the replacement of aging apparatus, which was a goal from our previous voter-approved levy lid lift.

I'm sure unexpected supply chain issues have hit all of you, and the fire district is no different. In September of 2021 we were able to order a new ambulance to replace our 23-year-old unit, but due to those delays it was just received and placed into service in May of this year. This new ambulance is 4-wheel drive and will improve our



The next major project for the fire district is replacing the primary fire stations in Gales Addition (Station 21), pictured above, and Dry Creek (Station 22), pictured below.

response capabilities, especially in winter months. We were also able to order a new fire engine and water tender. These will replace a 32-year-old fire engine and 30-year-old water tender, which have reached the end of their service life and need replacement. These new vehicles will serve the citizens for the next 15-25 years.

The major project the fire district is planning for is the replacement of our primary fire stations in Gales Addition and Dry Creek. These stations are more than 60 years old and were not designed for full-time career

firefighters. The fire district has been working with architecture and engineering firms to develop a plan to make sure our facilities will not only meet the district's current and future service needs, but also improve the health and safety of our crews.

I am honored to be a part of Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue and continue to be amazed by the dedicated, committed, and professional volunteer and career staff who deliver such a high level of service to the citizens. Thank you for your support and we look forward to what the future may hold.

What is an EMS Levy?

When a fire district is formed by voter approval, the voters also set a regular fire levy rate to fund operations. At the time most fire districts were formed, it was for fire protection services only and emergency medical services were not a responsibility of a fire district.

Over the years, as the fire agencies transitioned to providing EMS, they would ask voters to approve a separate EMS levy up to a maximum of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value on their property.

The revenues from an EMS levy can only be used for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

Since the creation of Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue (Clallam County Fire District #2) in 1944, the fire district has only operated with our regular fire levy. At that time, the funding was sufficient to provide fire protection service to the community.

As demand grew for pre-hospital EMS in the late 1970s and early 1980s, many fire districts, including Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue, started training personnel as emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Eventually as EMS programs grew and the need for more advanced care arose, agencies started to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS)/ Paramedic levels of service. Almost all of them funded this transition with a voter-approved EMS levy.

In 2014, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue obtained a Washington State Department of Health Verified ALS license to provide paramedic



Clallam 2's EMS program is a critical service the district provides, and it has been funded with revenue from the district's regular fire levy. However, this operational model is not sustainable for the long term.

level of care to our citizens. This was the same time the fire district received a 4-year FEMA grant to hire our first full-time career firefighters and begin the transition to a combination fire district which uses both volunteer and career firefighters.

The fire district was very sensitive to the needs of the citizens and funded this ALS program with revenue from the regular fire levy. While this postponed the need for an EMS levy, it draws large amounts of funding from the regular fire levy to pay for the EMS program. This reduces the levy funding available for large projects like apparatus replacement and facility upgrades.

The EMS program has become a critical component to the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. The other two public ALS agencies in Clallam County have either an

EMS levy (Clallam County FD#3) or Medic I Utility (Port Angeles Fire Dept.) to fund their EMS programs. Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue currently does not have an EMS levy.

The Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes that while we have been able to fund our EMS program through our regular fire levy, it is unsustainable in the long term.

As we move forward in planning for service demands in the years to come, it is logical to assess the need for an EMS levy to fund the fire district's EMS program.

If presented to the voters, an EMS levy requires a 60% supermajority to pass and can be a 6-year, 10-year, or permanent EMS levy. The Fire Commissioners and staff continue to work on the best option for the citizens and fire district to ensure long term stability and sustainability for our EMS program.

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Steve Hopf – Board Chair
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Dan Huff – Commissioner

Serving the Communities of

Deer Park
Gales Addition
Black Diamond
Dry Creek
Elwha
Lake Sutherland
Mt. Pleasant

RECENT TRAINING

In August, Clallam 2 volunteer and career crews had the opportunity to get familiar with garbage collection vehicles. Olympic Disposal Waste Connections brought over a couple different types of vehicles commonly used in the area.

These large vehicles can present some unique challenges to first responders in the event of a fire or other emergency. Not only is there the potential for fires to be started from collected waste, but the vehicles have hydraulic systems that could also present hazards if ruptured or involved in a vehicle accident.

Crews ran through basic operations and hazards, and they also learned ways to shut down the vehicles in emergency situations.



Employee Spotlight: Anaka Hughes

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is very proud to be a combination fire district which utilizes full-time career responders as well as many volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

With the volunteer program comes a lot of work recruiting, interviewing, organizing, training, and managing the personnel. Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is very lucky to have a dedicated Volunteer Training Coordinator, Anaka Hughes.

Anaka joined the Fire District in late 2019 as part of a FEMA Grant the District received to fund the position. She was, and still is, a volunteer firefighter/EMT with Clallam County Fire District #3 in her spare time. She lives in Sequim with her husband and twin boys who keep her extremely busy.

Prior to coming to work at Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue, Anaka worked at Olympic Ambulance as an EMT, Olympic Medical Center as an Emergency Room Technician, and also previously worked as a diesel mechanic and spent time in Iraq and Afghanistan supporting the military mission there.

She has experience in the role as volunteer firefighter/EMT and first-hand knowledge on how to best juggle that into a busy life. This helps her to be a mentor and advocate for new volunteers and can provide valuable insight into what it takes to become a volunteer. Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is always looking for new volunteer members, and Anaka would be happy to answer any questions you have and provide you with information on the process to become a volunteer. She can be contacted at ahughes@clallamfire2.org or 360-457-2550.



New Ambulance Arrives for District 2

In September of 2021, the Fire District ordered a new ambulance to replace our older 1999 Med Tec ambulance, which was reaching the end of its service life. Production delays due to supply chain issues pushed back delivery until May of 2023.

We are very pleased to present to you our newest addition to our fleet, a 2023 Braun Northwest F450 4x4 ambulance. This new unit is our first 4-wheel drive ambulance and will be invaluable during the winter months when we get snow and ice. This allowed the Fire District to replace our 24-year old ambulance which had put in many good years but was ready for retirement.





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