

# Fire District 3

## Spring Newsletter 2021



### FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

#### District Vision

To reduce and eliminate risk from fire, rescue and medical events in the communities we serve.

#### District Mission

To preserve quality of life and protect property through public education, prevention activities and emergency response services.

#### Board of Directors

Harvey Tonn  
Cindy Hauser  
Bill Leavens  
Stephen Shafer  
John Dimick

#### Executive Team

Robert Horton  
Stacy Maxwell  
Mike Hussey  
John Patterson  
Dave Blakely  
Justin Bates

#### Serving the communities of

Agate Lake  
Central Point  
Dodge Bridge  
Gold Hill  
Eagle Point  
Sams Valley  
White City

#### Contact Us

8383 Agate Road  
White City, OR 97503  
541-826-7100  
www.jcfd3.com

Greetings FD3 Patrons,

On behalf of our entire organization, we appreciate the support we have received over the last year. Despite navigating COVID-19 and the Valley's wildfires, our team has not lost stride in serving you. In fact, we have kicked it up another gear to help ensure our community is as prepared as we can be!

Our mission is to preserve the quality of life for the residents, businesses, and visitors of our great District. This past year we increased our service delivery with the addition of our Community Care Program and our initiatives aimed at risk reduction in the community.

Our Community Care Program includes a response team that connects with patrons in the need of medical services, but not an emergency response engine crew. This team has received advanced training and direction in healthcare system navigation to include a connection with community resources that would lead to a more desirable outcome for the patron.

We recognize there are barriers that might inhibit your ability to optimize reducing risk on your property. We have added various tools to help with our collective interest to "Reduce Flammable Fuels, Increase Defensible Space." The District has a fuels reduction trailer and a community wood debris transfer site, available at our Dodge Bridge Station. For more information on these services, check out our website at [jcfd3.com](http://jcfd3.com).

We also have a new platform for you to connect with us, aptly named "Community Connect." Set up a profile and ensure emergency response personnel have critical information should there be an emergency at your location. We also use this platform for our District's "Burn Permit / Burn Notification" process, so our Firefighters know when you are reducing your vegetation materials through open burning.



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# FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

To ensure you are receiving the most current information from your Fire District, access to programs, and notification about events, be sure to follow us on our social media accounts

Facebook @JCoFD3

Instagram @jcofd3

Set up a Community Connect Profile by scanning the QR code on page 3 or by visiting <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/or-firedistrict3>.

It takes all of us to prevent disaster from striking our community. Thank you for being part of the effort so we can show all of Oregon what wildfire preparedness looks like!

Respectfully,

*Bob*

Robert B. Horton  
Fire Chief

## COMMUNITY STATS

**16,177**

PulsePoint Subscribers

**137**

Smoke Alarms  
Installed

**1**

FireWise  
USA Sites  
Created

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

**7,978**

Facebook Followers

**510**

Instagram  
Followers  
\*Account  
created May  
2020

**459**

Twitter  
Followers

# COMMUNITY CARE

Fire District 3 introduces a new resource into its medical response model. Identified in our strategic plan, we aim to match the resource response with the needs of the community. The Community Care Response Unit is staffed with a Paramedic and EMT who are dispatched to assist District patrons.

The Community Care Providers are accessed through direct referral by emergency response personnel, by direct contact from a District Patron or response through the 911 system, based on an advanced call triaging system.

“Community Care Providers are positioned to provide assistance, guidance, and solutions to a patron who have a medical or social need in a way that we are not able to offer through our emergency response personnel on fire engines,” states Fire District 3 Fire Chief Bob Horton. “The Community Care Team is connected with resources throughout the community, to ensure our patrons are able to access services that are more cost effective, and appropriate for their needs. Our team engages with the Patron, completes a comprehensive assessment, and helps navigate them to the most appropriate solution.”

In May of 2020, the District hired two paramedics to pilot the new Community Care Program. In February of 2021 two EMTs were added, enabling the team to increase response from 4 to 7 days a week.

## Meet the Team



Michelle - Paramedic



Chad - Paramedic



Andrew - EMT-I



Connor - EMT



# REDUCING WILDLAND FUELS

Southern Oregon, along with other areas of the state, experienced radical wildfires like we haven't seen in years, if ever. The devastation that the flames left is unfathomable and our hearts are with those who were affected by the 2020 wildfires. Our goal is to do everything in our power to make sure this doesn't happen again. This isn't just a Fire District 3 project, but is an initiative that must be taken seriously by all of us who call these communities our home. You have the power to make a difference in prevention and we're here to help.

Our Fuels Reduction Trailer program, established in the Spring of 2020, is available to residents who have wildfire debris on their property that needs to be removed with no way to remove it. We understand that many residents want to help and clear their property, but face a barrier of not having the right transportation. We want to help break down that barrier.

Our trailer is available by appointment 7 days a week and can be easily booked by calling our Administration office at (541) 826-7100. We will deliver the trailer to your home on your scheduled day allowing you 3 days to load your debris. At the conclusion of your reservation or when you inform us it is full, we will gladly pick up the trailer and dispose the debris for you at no charge. The trailer is available year-round with no limit to how many times you are allowed to utilize this service.



To learn more about this resource scan the QR code or visit <https://qr.go.page.link/Lc15h>



# REDUCING WILDLAND FUELS

What about when it's not a burn day and the fuels reduction trailer is booked? No problem!

We are proud to introduce a new community resource this year, our Wildland Fuels Collection Site. This site is intended for those who do have transportation but perhaps time or distance is problematic. Located next to our Dodge Bridge Station located at 60 Rogue River Drive Eagle Point, this site offers a place for residents to dispose of their wildfire debris during a time that works with your schedule.

An informational sign is available at the site to help you navigate what is and is not acceptable debris to dispose of, shares resources for obtaining a burn permit and more. This site is intended for residential debris only and disposal from businesses is prohibited.

The site is open 7 days a week with no appointment necessary, no paperwork to fill out, and is always free of charge. Safely dispose of your debris and we will handle the rest!



# RECRUIT ACADEMY 21-01

Fire District 3 is excited to welcome four new Firefighters to the Fire District 3 family! These recruits will fill vacancies created by recent retirements and one anticipated retirement in 2021 (see next page for a special shout out to our retirees). The recruits began their eight-week training academy on March 22, 2021 preparing them to answer your calls for service.

Service delivery to our patrons is a critical component of our Mission. Our recruit academy prepares personnel for the variety of calls for service we receive from those who live and travel throughout our fire district. These calls for service are broad in nature and range from medical-related events, vehicle collisions, rescue events, and wildland and building fires. Due to the vast nature and complexity of our industry, our recruits undergo extensive training during the academy and their one year of probation.

Throughout the eight-week training academy, the recruits participate in various firefighting skills such as hose deployment, search and rescue, ladder carries and placement, smoke removal from buildings, forcible entry techniques, and driving of fire apparatus. Additionally, the recruits will learn about life-saving medical techniques, equipment, and procedures, removing trapped patient from vehicles, and basic rope rescue techniques. Our goal throughout the training academy is to prepare the recruits to be a high-functioning member of their assigned engine company upon graduation. With approximately 320 hours of focused training, we are confident in their ability to provide quality service when they respond to your event.



Pictured left to right: Neil Clooney, Cole Hornbrook, Jared Nichols and Sophia Bradley

Throughout the remainder of their probationary year the recruits continue focused training with their assigned crew. The topics are structured to build on what they learned in the training academy, helping them understand the fire service with a global perspective. This includes familiarization of district geography, policy and procedure, and the use of specialized tools and equipment. After numerous written exams and skill evaluations throughout the year, the recruits earn certifications from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). These certifications verify a fire service professional's knowledge, skills, and abilities in relation to established National standards. The standards established by Oregon and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Standards are the District's minimum standards for our personnel.

We introduce to you our newest members of the FD3 family and we look forward to their many years of dedicated service to you!

# 2020 RETIREES

With the exciting news of our new recruit on-boarding, we would be amiss if we did not recognize the individuals who served and made the recruit opportunity possible.

Fire District 3 would like to recognize our 2020 retirees and thank them for their dedication and commitment to our communities, department, and fellow team members. They will always be part of the Fire District 3 family and it is an honor to have served with them.

Please join us in congratulating our retired members below, we wish you well on your next adventures!



Mike Calhoun retired from the position of Battalion Chief / A Shift in March of 2021, serving the District for 27 years. He served in numerous roles including Technical Rescue Team (TRT) instructor and manager, Strike Team Leader, Blue Card incident management instructor, Captain, Engineer, Firefighter and was a certified EMT-I. He was also a member of the Oregon contingent that traveled to New York City to assist with funerals and ceremonies for fire personnel who perished on 9/11. Mike led Oregon resources to support California Paradise Fire and Napa County fires. Last but not least, he was the Wes Clafin recipient in 2019. Congratulations Mike on a long and fulfilling career!

Myron Harvey retired from the position of Battalion Chief / C Shift in November of 2020, serving 25 years with Fire District 3. Myron served as Strike Team Leader and Fire Officer. He has served in numerous roles including Volunteer, Firefighter, Engineer, Captain and Battalion Chief. Myron served on the EMS Committee and Apparatus Specification Committee where he helped to manage our fleet. He Led Oregon resources to support the California Ventura County fires. Myron retired from the District as a Paramedic. Thank you Myron for your dedication to our



Bart Qualls retired from the position of Engineer / C Shift in July of 2020 after serving 25 years with the District. Bart operated as an EMT Basic and was certified as an aerial operator. He also served in the position of volunteer prior to filling a career role. During his time with the District, Bart served as a member of the TRT, was a member of the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and was part of the Oregon contingent that traveled to New York City to assist with funerals and ceremonies for the fire personnel who perished on 9/11. You may know Bart for his most recent appearance from *Storytime Saturday* where he shared stories of kindness and inspiration. Thank you Bart for endless compassion and service!

# NEW APPARATUS JOINS THE FLEET

This past winter our crews have been busily training and preparing a new vehicle for service in anticipation for the 2021 fire season. The District's new wildland interface engine is the first of its kind to be added to the fleet. The engine's capabilities and agility will compliment an already versatile response to fires in the wildland environment.



Built on a different chassis, the vehicle will operate with similar capability in a rural environment than the conventional structural engine. The vehicle is best suited to serve rural residents specializing in narrow driveways, steep, uneven terrain and operates confidently during inclement weather. The vehicle will be based out of the Scenic Station in Central Point for the 2021 season.

Check out the specs below to learn more about this wildland warrior!

Drivetrain:	4 x 4
Height:	10' 2"
Length:	26' 4"
Wheel Base:	14' 8" ' "
Weight:	35,000 lbs
Pump - Volume mode:	500 gallons per minute
Pump – Pressure mode:	300 psi
Water Tank:	500 gallons
Feet of hose carried:	4000'
Seating:	4

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

As we begin a new year, Fire District 3 is thrilled to launch a new community engagement program called "Community Connect". At Fire District 3, one of our goals is to connect and engage with the communities we serve and this new program is designed to do just that. Community Connect is an online portal for our community, allowing you to engage with the District by documenting information about your home or business that you would want first responders to know in the event an emergency.

For example, many people have shared their emergency contact information, pet details, gate or key codes, and the location of any hazards that may be on the property. This information is secure and only accessible to emergency response personnel responding to your address. We also utilize this system to issue burn permits.

Community Connect is just one part of a larger program that is being implemented at Fire District 3 that we call our Tactical Advantage Initiative. This initiative is focused on getting Firefighters the information they need before they arrive on scene. Community Connect plays an important role providing first responders accurate information about your property before they arrive on scene, keeping you and your property safe. Additionally, Community Connect allows us to reach out to you through email, serving you better by sharing pertinent safety information, hazardous vegetation/fuels reduction events, and more!

We would love for you to partner with us by registering your property and letting us know important information about your location at <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/or-firedistrict3> or by clicking the Community Connect link on our website at <https://www.jcfd3.com/>



## FIRE DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY CONNECT

Together, Building a Safer  
Community Through Prevention,  
Preparedness & Response

### 1 Create account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

### 2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

### 3 Help your fire department when the seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.



Scan the image above  
to sign up today !

# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

## HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

### SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches



Tip: Remove any low hanging limbs that hang over the home or are within 15 feet of the ground.



Tip: Looking to spruce up your yard with some foliage? Choose a FireWise plant! For a list of what grows well in our area, scan the QR code below.



Tip: Make sure you have an evacuation or emergency preparedness kit readily available in the event of a wildfire.



VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Listed below is a directory of resources that are frequently requested. Keep this page for quick reference by cutting along the dotted lines!

**Burn Day Information:** Can be found on the bottom right-hand side of our website homepage. A simple "Yes" or "No" image is displayed daily. You can also call (541) 776-7006 for updates throughout the day.

**DEQ Illegal Burn Line:** (541) 776-6010

**Wood Stove Burning:** (541) 776-9000

**Oregon Department of Forestry SWO:** (541) 664-3328

**ECSO Non-Emergency Dispatch:** (541) 776-7206

**Aging and Disability Resource Center:** (541) 618-7572

**Car Seat Checks:** Although we no longer have car seats to hand out, we do help with installs and checks! Call our administration office to get scheduled.

Did you know we offer free personalized wildland home risk assessments? If interested please call our Administration office at (541) 826-7100.

Call Fire District 3  
today for a free  
home assessment  
541-826-7100





Fire District 3  
8383 Agate Road  
White City, OR 97503  
Business Office:  
(541) 826-7100

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WITH US!

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# LEARN CPR - GET THE APP - SAVE A LIFE



1 SCA victim in need



2 911 system sends  
PulsePoint alert



3 Signal received by  
nearby PulsePoint users



4 Users rush to help victim  
before professional help  
arrives



# PulsePoint