



Jackson County Fire District 3 Jackson County Fire District 5



Jackson County Fire District 3
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire District 3 & Fire District 5 Sign Agreement to Combine Personnel and Equipment for Stronger Regional Service

White City, Ore. (Oct. 22, 2026) – The Boards of Directors of Jackson County Fire District 3 and Jackson County Fire District 5 are pleased to announce the execution of an expanded Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) combining operational services of the two agencies. The agreement builds upon the shared management services agreement established in 2024 and reflects the continued collaboration between the districts. The agreement becomes effective January 1, 2027.

Under the new agreement, Fire District 3 will provide all emergency response and support services within the Fire District 5 service area. Service levels will be consistent with those provided throughout Fire District 3, including emergency response, fire prevention, public education, and risk reduction programs. Existing mutual aid agreements will remain in place and continue to support regional efforts.

While operational functions will be consolidated, both agencies will remain legally separate entities governed by their respective elected boards. Fire District 5 will reimburse Fire District 3 for the cost of services provided, while any remaining debt obligations of Fire District 5 will remain the responsibility of Fire District 5. Services currently provided within Fire District 3's boundaries will remain unchanged and unaffected by the agreement.

To support this transition, all Fire District 5 employees and apparatus will transfer to Fire District 3. Fire Chief Mike Hussey credited the success of the agreement to the collaboration between firefighters, labor organizations, and district leadership.

"The collaboration and professionalism shown throughout this process have been outstanding," said Hussey. "Our labor groups worked together to create a smooth transition that protects employees while strengthening service for our communities."

Brady Graham, President of IAFF Local 2596, said the agreement represents years of collaboration, planning, and a shared commitment to firefighter safety and community service.

"This agreement represents an exciting and significant step forward for our firefighters and those that we serve," said Graham. "We are proud to support a shared vision that prioritizes firefighter safety and strengthens our collective ability to serve our communities while ensuring firefighters have the personnel, resources, and support necessary to operate safely and effectively."

To read the full statement from IAFF Local 2596 President Brady Graham, visit:
www.jcfd3or.gov/news-and-notice

The elimination of duplicative functions and the consolidation of resources will create operational efficiencies that can be reinvested into service delivery. These efficiencies will support the reopening of Station 4 and the expansion of staffing levels across the Fire District 5 service area.

Beginning in mid-May 2027, all three Fire District 5 stations will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This enhanced staffing model will be achieved through the hiring of additional personnel and the successful graduation of academy recruits in early May.

According to Fire District 5 Board Chair Greg Costanzo, the agreement ensures residents will benefit from expanded resources while maintaining a local focus on service delivery.

"I am extremely proud to enter into this long-term partnership with Fire District 3," said Costanzo. "Residents of Fire District 5 will benefit from expanded services, improved communication, and a stronger, more resilient emergency response system for years to come."

The agreement allows personnel and equipment to be deployed more efficiently across both service areas while strengthening regional emergency response capabilities.

Fire District 3 Board President Harvey Tonn said the agreement reflects the organizations' long-standing commitment to collaboration and public service.

"This is ultimately about people coming together to serve our communities more effectively," said Tonn. "The trust and teamwork shown by both organizations have made this milestone possible, and I am excited about what comes next."

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