

# THE SIREN

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT

**SWORN TO SERVE, DEDICATED TO SAVE**

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

The Fire District continues to make improvements to emergency response through the community supported levy. As shared previously, the objectives of the levy were to increase daily staffing, invest in equipment, and to more effectively fight wildfires.

We currently have 10 new firefighters going through an academy. Once graduated, they will be deployed throughout the Fire District and ultimately result in increased daily staffing. Also, this July, career staffing will be assigned to Station 13 in the Clarkes community. Staffing that fire station will not only increase the overall daily staffing within the Fire District, but it will also provide a 24/7 staffing to a community that currently does not have that.

We will continue to keep the community updated on how the levy will allow the Fire District to better serve all of our communities. Thank you again for your support.

## COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC OVERVIEW

Clackamas Fire has a Community Paramedic that plays a vital role in improving access to healthcare within our communities, while helping the 911 system by keeping our emergency resources (fire engines, ladder trucks, etc.) available for high-risk, life-threatening emergencies.

Regardless of the social determinants of health, community paramedics primarily focus on preventive care, chronic conditions and supporting vulnerable populations, but they are still trained to respond to medical emergencies when necessary.

The Community Paramedic works closely with Clackamas County health agencies and other partners to provide a platform for health equity that facilitates a healthier Clackamas County. The program has been nationally recognized while also experiencing many local success stories.

Recent grant funding from Clackamas County will support a limited time expansion of our Community Paramedic services to help with post-pandemic recovery.



# CREW 30 UPDATE

Clackamas Fire District is proud to have a professional hand crew known as Crew 30 to respond to wildfires and prescribed burns. On April 1, 2024, we welcomed 18 members to our 2024 season.



The first Clackamas Fire District Type 2, seasonal hand crew was created in 2021 and consisted of 22 members. Type 2 simply means we are capable of initial attack and can split up into separate modules to meet multiple objectives at the same time. This hand crew was the first of its kind for a structural fire department in Oregon. For two seasons, the crews were made possible through a grant from WorkSource Oregon that allowed us to partner with Clackamas Community College's forestry technician program to offer paid training and full-time, seasonal employment.

A typical season for the crew is from April through October, working four 10-hour shifts and responding from our Station 14 in Boring. Crew 30 is available to respond to wildfires 24-hours, seven days a week, throughout the state, nation, and Canada, constructing handlines and performing strategic burn-out operations to stop a fire's progress.

In addition to their work in wildland areas, crews are assigned to conduct mop-up operations after wildfires are put out, ensuring that hotspots don't flare up and the fire is fully extinguished. Crew 30 can serve multiple roles in fire suppression that consist of constructing fire lines, defensible space, and conducting mop-operations, improving efficiency and relieving firefighters to return back to service. When not on wildfires, the crew is involved in fuel mitigation projects.

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Clackamas Fire District recommends creating defensible space around your home to reduce the threat of wildfire. There are several steps that homeowners can take to make their homes and property more defensible in a wildfire including:

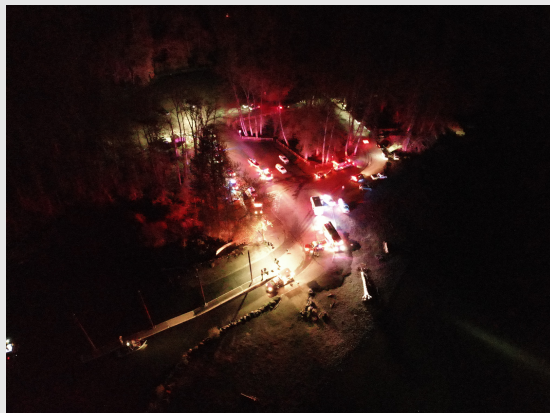
- Define your defensible space by creating a 30-foot zone of fire-resistant space around your home.
- Reduce flammable vegetation and brush around your home and reduce the density of nearby trees.
- Keep grass and weeds cut low to less than 4".
- Clear wood piles and building materials away from your home and outbuildings.
- Keep your yard and roof clean and remove overhanging and dead limbs.
- Keep address signs visible for easy access and trim vegetation away from driveways.
- Choose fire-resistant roofing materials.
- Use alternatives to burning debris such as chipping, recycling, or composting.



# INCREASED STAFFING SAVED A MAN'S LIFE

The swift action of firefighters saved the life of a man who was close to drowning in the Willamette River, near Meldrum Bar Park.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, firefighters were dispatched to an initial report of a male trapped inside a vehicle that was in the river, and reportedly had exited the submerging vehicle and was in distress. Arriving first on scene, firefighters quickly put on their personal floatation devices and identified a male struggling in the water. Due to the immediate threat to the male's safety, two firefighters jumped in to prevent him from drowning.



During the rescue efforts of the two firefighters in the water, the other two firefighters took throw bags to the nearest shore. The ropes from the throw bags landed right over the top of the three of them and the two firefighters on the shore were able to pull the rescuers and the male to safety. Upon their arrival on-scene, firefighters located and pulled the victim out of the water in 2 minutes and 44 seconds.

Once out of the water, the male was treated and transported by American Medical Response to an area hospital.

Battalion Chief Greg Holland said, "If the crew from Engine 315 had not done what they did [performed a high-risk rescue], the male would have drowned. He was out of time, out of breath, and out of energy to keep going."

Clackamas Fire District would like to thank the community for their ongoing support of the Emergency Services Levy. As part of the year one plan, firefighters from Station 15 in Oregon City received an increase in firefighter staffing, along with four other fire stations across the Fire District. This increase in staffing improves response capabilities that ultimately saved this man's life.

*\*The photo is courtesy of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Drone Unit.*

# CALL TRACKER

## January - March 2024 (Includes Mutual Aid)

**Total Calls: 8,414**

**Good Intent: 1,108**

**EMS/Rescue: 5,753**

**False Alarm: 295**

**Hazardous Condition: 119**

**Service Call: 1,014**

**Fire: 118**

**Other: 7**