

The Siren

Clackamas Fire *Here for you.*



Rig of the Quarter: Engine
Engines are usually the first-in apparatus at structure fires. They can hold up to 1,000 gallons of water, connect to hydrants OR draft water from ponds, rivers, or tanks, and hold a number of different hose types for attack, supply, and exposure protection.

Shared Goals, Stronger Communities

I hope everyone across our communities had a wonderful holiday season and is looking ahead with optimism and excitement for all that 2026 will bring. As we begin the new year, I want to reflect on a powerful reminder of why preparation, partnership, and trust matter so deeply when our community needs us most. It has been one month since Clackamas County experienced some of the most severe flooding since the historic '96 floods.

At Clackamas Fire, we regularly train for and simulate natural disasters to ensure we are ready to serve our community when we are needed most. Our effectiveness depends on our relationships and communication with regional partners. As a special district, we rely closely on our counterparts at the Sheriff's Office, Clackamas County Disaster Management, CCOM, mutual aid partners, and other local jurisdictions, to make sure that when disaster strikes, we can keep our commitment to our community and save lives and protect property.

In October, we hosted an Incident Management Team (IMT) exercise that brought together state, local, and federal partners to simulate a large-scale disaster and evaluate our coordinated response. This all-day exercise allowed us to work through real-time decision-making, clarify roles, and strengthen interagency coordination.

Last month, we had to put our training to the test and, together, we were able to save lives with our flood response effort.

While the devastation to our community was significant, we are proud and grateful that our collective efforts resulted in no fatalities within our community. These outcomes are the result of years of relationship-building, joint planning, coordinated training, and a shared commitment of trust and collaboration. We are especially proud of our partners at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, whose professionalism, communication, and discipline were exceptional throughout the

response. Their ability to evacuate hundreds of people in such a short period of time was nothing short of heroic. Our colleagues at Clackamas County Disaster Management rapidly stood up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and worked tirelessly to determine evacuation routes and issue timely orders.

The 304th Rescue Squadron with the United States Airforce Reserve Command quickly answered our request for support, deploying alongside our Water Rescue Team. Utilizing the 304th Rescue Squadron allowed us to strategically position our water rescue resources throughout the district, ensuring coverage in the most at-risk areas. Our collective work helped rescue dozens of community members from floodwaters.

Given the severity of the flooding and the scope of evacuation orders, close coordination among local jurisdictions was essential to deliver life-saving messaging across both traditional and social media platforms. By working directly with Clackamas County's Public Information Office, we helped amplify evacuation information to thousands of residents who may not have otherwise received it.

Our response to last month's flooding reflects the power of trust, preparation, and partnership. We will continue to invest in training, simulations, and collaboration, while identifying opportunities to improve. We do this because we all share the same priority: saving lives and protecting our community

Have a happy and safe 2026,



Nick Browne

Nick Browne, Clackamas Fire Chief

District Updates

Emergency Services Levy

We continue to deliver on our emergency services levy commitments to Clackamas Fire voters, which was first approved in May 2023. We take seriously our responsibility to be careful, transparent stewards of the district's tax dollars, and Chief Financial Officer Mark Whittaker regularly provides updates to our Board on levy expenditures and progress, ensuring accountability at every step.

Levy funds have enabled us to successfully hire 60 firefighters, and each one is fully prepared and ready to respond to any type of emergency, at any time. Looking ahead, our goal for 2026 is to continue to demonstrate the value of this community investment through providing strong service and increasing preparedness.

We are deeply grateful to Clackamas Fire voters for their continued support of their fire district. Because of this investment, we are better prepared to protect our community, our people, and our property.

Annexation

In November 2025, Gladstone voted to annex into Clackamas Fire, becoming a permanent part of our fire district.

Gladstone's vote will allow Clackamas Fire to permanently provide enhanced emergency services to the community, include Gladstone in regional strategies to prioritize prevention, mitigation, and reduction of call times, and ensure service stability.

We're very appreciative of the support shown by the Gladstone City Council and administrative staff as we move forward with the annexation process.

While the annexation vote in Sandy Fire District fell 174 votes short, the Clackamas and Sandy Fire Boards have launched a new community conversation about the future of Fire & EMS protection in those communities and intend to ask Sandy voters again in May 2026 to consider formally joining Clackamas Fire District.

Operation Santa

For over 50 years, Operation Santa Claus has been a wonderful opportunity for us to help, serve, and give back to our community. Each year, we host a food and toy drive to support families in need during the holiday season. This year we:

- Hosted **5** holiday parades throughout the district
- Organized **5** drop-off events around the community
- Worked with 9 community partners and set up **11** drop-off sites to accept donations
- Collected 49 barrels of food equalling 10,300 lbs, well surpassing 2024's total of 42 barrels
- Received **7,000** lbs of donated toys, surpassing 2024's final count of 5,575 lbs

These donations went to local nonprofits that we're honored to work with to ensure all donations went to families in need.





Winter Safety Reminder: Drive Carefully!

Winter driving in the Oregon can be unpredictable. A single trip could experience heavy rain, fog, and icy roads. Understanding how the weather not only impacts you, but also other drivers, can make winter travel much safer.

Wet roads can cause hydroplaning, while fog and low clouds limits visibility, especially in the mornings. In colder temperatures, watch for black ice on bridges, overpasses, and shaded roadways. (Remember, ice can form even when roads appear clear!) Prepare your car by checking your tire tread and pressure, windshield wipers and defroster, and antifreeze and windshield washer fluid levels. Keeping your gas tank at least half full and carrying a small emergency kit with warm clothing, a flashlight, and a phone charger can also be helpful.

For those traveling through mountain passes, conditions can change quickly. Be prepared for traction requirements, carry chains when necessary, and expect possible delays or closures. Checking road and weather reports before leaving can help you avoid dangerous situations. Above all, remember that no trip is worth the risk. If weather conditions are severe, delaying travel is often the safest option.





CLACKAMAS FIRE BY THE NUMBERS 2025

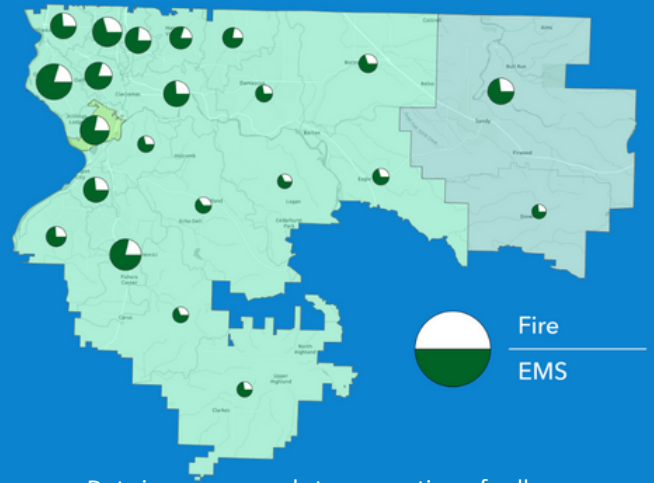
ANNUAL APPARATUS RESPONSES

43,902 ✓ 2% FROM 2024

ANNUAL TOTAL
COMING SOON
LIVES SAVED

ANNUAL MEDIAN
TURNOUT TIME
00:01:20

INCIDENT
LOCATION HEAT MAP



ANNUAL TOTAL
82

SEASONAL
(WILDLAND - BRUSH - GRASS)

ANNUAL TOTAL
581

MUTUAL AID CALLS

ANNUAL TOTAL

1,346

ACCIDENTS
(VEH - PED - NON-INJURY)

ANNUAL TOTAL

121

STRUCTURE FIRES

ANNUAL TOTAL

81

SPECIALTY RESCUES

ANNUAL TOTAL
CARDIAC ARRESTS

208

ANNUAL TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED

\$93MM

ANNUAL CONCURRENT CALLS

