



FIREHOUSE CONNECTION

Grant County Fire District #3

Q4 2026

ISSUE #8

BY THE NUMBERS



TOTAL CALLS

LAST
QUARTER

374

2026
TOTAL

1,003



FIRE CALLS

75

179



EMS CALLS

203

563



OTHER CALLS

96

261



NEW
MEMBERS

10

13

MEMO FROM THE CHIEF

As we move into the final quarter of the year, I want to recognize the tremendous effort put forth by our entire District 3 team throughout a very busy summer.

I am incredibly proud of, and thankful for, the dedication demonstrated by our career staff, volunteers, resident firefighters, support personnel, and administrative team. From responding to emergencies and supporting regional and state wildfire operations to completing training, maintaining equipment, documenting our work, participating in community events, and keeping our stations ready, everyone played an important role.

Our members already give so much while serving their communities every day. This year, their hard work gave them another opportunity to give back through the District's improved Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau classification.

Following the recent WSRB evaluation, the City of Quincy maintained its Class 5 rating, while Grant County Fire District #3 and the City of George improved from Class 6 to Class 5. On WSRB's rating scale, a lower number represents stronger community fire-protection capabilities. The evaluation considers several areas, including emergency communications, water supply, equipment, staffing, training, prevention, and operational readiness.

Maintaining Quincy's Class 5 rating and improving the District and City of George to Class 5 are significant accomplishments. The improved rating demonstrates the progress our organization has made and may help some property owners obtain more favorable insurance rates, depending on their insurance company and individual policy. It is a meaningful way our members' commitment may benefit the community beyond the emergency services they provide every day.

We have also completed our updated Strategic Plan, another major accomplishment for the District. The plan was developed through honest conversations, thoughtful input, and a shared commitment from our members, elected officials, community partners, and the public. It establishes clear priorities and positions the District for the next five years as we respond to continued growth and the changing emergency-service needs of our communities.

Completing the plan does not mean our work is finished. It means the next phase begins. We will now transition the plan's goals and strategies into annual work plans with specific action items, assigned responsibilities, and measurable progress. This process will keep the Strategic Plan active and ensure it guides our decisions involving staffing, facilities, equipment, training, prevention, community engagement, and long-term financial sustainability.

The plan gives us a roadmap, but its success will depend on our continued commitment and accountability. We will regularly evaluate our progress, adjust when circumstances change, and keep our members and communities informed. By approaching the plan one year at a time, we can turn our long-term priorities into meaningful and achievable improvements.

As we enter a season of true thankfulness, I also want to recognize the families behind our members. They are awakened by pagers and phone calls in the middle of the night, experience interrupted meals and family events, and

support their loved ones through the physical and mental demands of emergency service. Their sacrifices may not always be visible, but they make our service possible. To every family member who shares their loved one with this District and our community—thank you.

Grant County Fire District #3 is more than an emergency-service organization; we are a family. That family includes our members, their loved ones, our community partners, and the residents we are honored to serve.

Fire Prevention Week is one of our best opportunities to bring that entire family together. Our community open houses are truly an all-hands-on-deck effort, with members throughout the District working together to welcome families, share important fire-safety information, showcase our stations and equipment, and build relationships with the people we serve. We are excited to open our doors and look forward to seeing you there.

We are proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about where we are headed. Everything we accomplish is the result of people working toward a common purpose—putting Service First.



Stay safe, stay prepared, and have a great winter.

David Durfee
Fire Chief

OPERATIONS & TRAINING

The past three months have been busy and productive for GCFD3, with continued progress in training, operations, staffing, and several major district projects.

Training: Summer training included SCBA quarterlies, radios and accountability, home-station drills, Highway Safety, MVA/extrication, hose deployment, and monthly Incident Command training for officers. The four-night MVA/Extrication block concluded with a hands-on scenario night that brought together the skills developed throughout the series. On-duty crews also continued working with our newer Resident Firefighters on fundamental fireground skills.

September marked the start of the Columbia River Fire Academy, with 21 recruits representing GCFD3, GCFD7, and GCFD8. Our second-year Resident Firefighters also began EMT training as they continue progressing through the program.

Operations: One of the biggest accomplishments of the summer was placing Rescue Boat 37 into service at Crescent Bar. The project included acquiring and modifying the boat, purchasing rescue equipment, training 23 operators, and securing a summer mooring location through Grant County PUD. September concludes our first summer with Boat 37 in service and the addition of this important rescue capability.

GCFD3 also supported several significant wildland incidents this summer. Locally, crews worked alongside regional partners during the Crescent Bar/Trinidad Hill Fire, which was contained to under 100 acres. In August, Engine 3522 and rotating district crews provided nearly 30 days of State Mobilization support on the Little Giant Fire in the Chelan, Entiat, and Plain areas.

District Growth & Projects: Provisional Firefighters added this summer have strengthened daily staffing and provided additional coverage for Station 35 and the south end of the district. Other projects included VHF radio reprogramming, WSRB documentation, hose-bed cover installation, and continued evaluation of standardized wildland and structural hose packages.

Planning for the district's two new fire engines also continued with a pre-build trip to Pierce Manufacturing. Additionally, two new 7-ton brush trucks are currently in the build process with Randco and are anticipated to be completed later this fall.



Thank you to all of our career, volunteer, resident, and provisional personnel who continue to make these accomplishments possible!

Todd Huffman
Assistant Chief, Operations & Training

PREVENTION & OUTREACH

As temperatures will be falling now is a great time to check and perform preventative maintenance on your heaters, and chimneys. Have your chimney swept professionally, or if you have the skill set remember we do have chimney brushes here at the station for check out. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, heaters, and other heat sources.

Fall is also a great time to check your carbon monoxide detectors. Test them monthly, replace batteries, and ensure they aren't expired. Never use propane heaters, camp stoves, charcoal grills indoors for heating or cooking.

Finally, make sure everyone in your household knows what to do if a fire occurs. Develop a home escape plan, identify two ways out, and establish a safe meeting place outside. Practice the plan with your family.

Fire prevention doesn't have to be complicated. A few minutes spent checking your home today can help prevent a tragedy tomorrow.



Stay warm, stay safe, and make fire prevention a priority this fall and winter!

Bob Horst
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention & Public Education



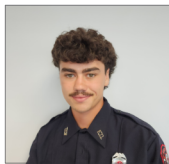
DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

NEW MEMBERS



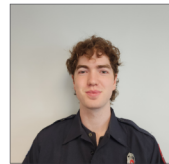
Emma Summers

Resident



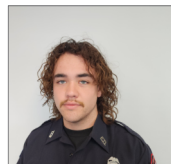
Bode Stermetz

Resident



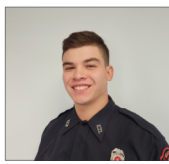
Alex Parpart

Resident



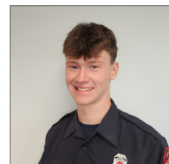
Ken Foley

Volunteer
Station 35



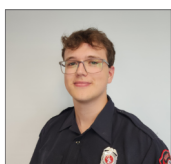
Madden Ruiz

Resident



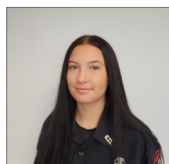
Hunter Crowley

Resident



Seth Fisher

Resident



Lacy Burton

Resident



Charlie Reyes

Volunteer
Station 37



Bella Wood

Volunteer
Station 32

UPCOMING EVENTS



GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

Open House

Quincy

 **Tues. Oct. 6, 2026**

 **3:30-6:30 pm**

 **1201 Central Ave. S**

George

 **Wed. Oct. 7, 2026**

 **4:00-6:00 pm**

 **101 Richmond Ave.**

Come join us for:

- Fire Trucks & Ambulances
- Air Ambulance Tour*
- Jr. Firefighter Obstacle Course
- Free Hot Dogs, Chips & Cookies
- Halloween Bags
- Meet Sparky!

*Subject to weather & emergency response availability





Find us on
Facebook



www.gcf3.net



(509) 787-2713



1201 Central Ave S
Quincy, WA 98848

SERVICE FIRST. PEOPLE ALWAYS. COMMUNITY STRONG.