



FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3

7809 North Road 36 | Pasco, WA 99301 | 509-547-9306 | fcd3@fcd3.org
[f franklincounty3](https://www.facebook.com/franklincounty3) | [t franklinfire3](https://www.instagram.com/franklinfire3) | [y @franklincountyfiredistrict1540](https://www.youtube.com/@franklincountyfiredistrict1540)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 12, 2023

Contact: Fire Chief Mike Harris | Office 509-547-9306 | media@fcd3.org

Community invited to learn more about fire levy lid lift

Proposition will appear on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot

(Pasco, Wash.) – Franklin County Fire District 3 invites the community to learn more about the fire levy lid lift that will be on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. The purpose of the lid lift is to improve emergency services.

Learn more at a Q&A session:

- Saturday, October 21, at 9 a.m. at Fire Station 36, 7809 North Road 36 in Pasco (coffee and donuts will be served)
- Tuesday, October 24, at 6 p.m. at Fire Station 36, 7809 North Road 36 in Pasco

Fire Chief Mike Harris will deliver a short presentation and answer any questions.

Fire District 3 reports that call volumes are projected to surpass 2022 numbers. Last year the fire district responded to a record high of 804 calls. This year the fire district is on track to break 900 calls for the year, which would represent a 15 percent increase in calls for 2023. Calls for emergency medical services (EMS) account for 50 percent of all calls.

Fire District 3 has been responding to higher calls volumes and overlapping calls (when two or more come in at the same time) for several years. Higher call volumes and overlapping calls are leading to longer response times. More calls are also driving up costs for medical equipment, firefighter protective gear, and other capital projects that are needed.

Revenue is not keeping up with the demand for and cost to provide service. The fire levy lid lift would fund:

- One additional full-time firefighter
- Two seasonal firefighters for wildland fire season
- Firefighter protective gear, ambulance, and water tender replacements
- Renovations at Station 33 on Columbia River Road (Block 1) to allow for 24-hour staffing and decontamination facilities to protect firefighter health and safety
- Backup power at the main fire station to continue operations during a natural disaster

These improvements will reduce response times, improve service reliability across the district, and protect firefighters' health and safety.

The fire district is asking voters to change the fire levy from \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$1.34. The \$0.30 lid lift would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$90 per year or \$7.50 per month.

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found at www.fcf3.org. Fire Chief Mike Harris also welcomes your questions at media@fcfd3.org or 509-547-9306.

###

Franklin County Fire District 3 (Fire District 3) serves more than 8,225 people over 205 square miles. Fire District 3 is a separate taxing district and is not associated with Franklin County. The fire district relies on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel who responded to more than 800 calls in 2022, of which 50 percent are for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Fire District 3 firefighters and emergency medical personnel are trained to provide quality emergency services for fire suppression, wildland fires, EMS, technical rescue, hazardous material spills, auto extrication, and prevention/safety education programs for adults and children. Fire District 3 relies on volunteers to respond to calls. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Fire District 3 to learn more.