



Fall 2024 Newsletter

Message from the Chief

Well, it's been a heck of a summer, but now that it's starting to wind down, I would love to tell you how things are going. First, we currently have the 3 full time EMT/firefighters hired and they start the official rotation on the 1st of October. This is a huge deal considering where we were when I was hired 8 years ago.

We are now searching for a secretary to keep things in order during the week. For the last couple of years, we have been using the Deputy Chief and Firefighters as they are available. Fortunately, we have some folks internally that are interested in the position. So, the process should be short. The longest part of it will be the background checks and such.

Our district is working with the Matlock Fire Department (Mason 12) on a regular basis. We are putting on a firefighter academy to make sure that all the new people between both districts are not just trained and certified, but all will be on the same page.

Currently, West Mason Fire is busier than any time since the start of Covid-19. The last call count is around 730 so far this year. The permanent staffing is very welcomed.

Rest assured we are still looking for volunteers. The paid staff will be used to train volunteers and do some of the things that are not being done simply because volunteers don't have the time.

I hope to get these newsletters out more often now that we have people. You'll see more from me in print and you might even catch the occasional video on social media.

As always, the coffee is on, and I would love to have you stop in and ask questions.

Chief Welander

The West County Recruit Academy started on September 10th. It's 14 weeks of intense fire fighter training to achieve Fire Fighter 1 Certification.



22 Recruits with 4 different departments - all from Mason County (West Mason Fire, Union Fire Department, Mason County Fire District 12 and Hoodspout Fire and EMS).



Fire Dynamics – learning about different types of fire behavior using doll houses.



Complete exhaustion, but still motivated.

Please help us welcome our newest employee,
Laila Hanson!

Laila started off at a small volunteer fire department when she was 17 and still in high school. She had a teacher in high school who previously worked as an EMT and inspired her interests in that career path. She always knew she wanted to do something in the medical field, but hearing about his experience made being an EMT sound like the coolest job ever. Immediately after becoming an EMT, she got her Wildland Fire certification, and shortly after that, she started fire academy and graduated. Laila said, "I am so excited to serve the community and learn new information and skills every shift!"



Greetings Neighbors!

As fall approaches, I'd like to update you on West Mason Fire's initiatives. In line with our motto, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," we have been under a paid contract supporting District #12 by providing primary response services since June, and we'll continue until they can operate independently.

To enhance our services, we have plans to expand Station 9-2 on Roadrunner Dr. to include staff facilities, office space, and a training room. I will be applying for a \$1.8 million grant from the Washington State Capital Budget to fund this project. Details can be found on our website.

Additionally, we're collaborating with the Skokomish Tribe to establish a new fire station to serve tribal lands, funded through tribal and federal sources.

We appreciate your feedback and support as we work towards a successful future for West Mason Fire. I encourage you to get involved and help us continue our mission to provide the highest quality Fire and EMS Services we can.

Regards,

Commissioner Trevor Severance
Chairman



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