

## Chief's Corner

By Fire Chief Mike Carnes



Thank you for supporting East County Fire and Rescue. ECFR provides emergency services to the rural communities of East Clark County, a 60 sq. mile area. It appears that we are moving towards the end of the covid-19 pandemic that has affected and

modified our services to our residents starting in the early months of 2020. Our first responders have done an outstanding job in providing these services using all of the precautions that were recommended by the CDC and the State of Washington. These precautions were necessary to protect our patients who needed medical care and to protect our responders from contracting the virus while performing their job. Our hope is to move somewhat back to pre-covid-19 fire district operations. After a 2 year hiatus, staff is working on preparations for an "Open House" later this Summer. The date we have set is Saturday, August 27th from 11:00 to 2:00 pm.

### In This Edition:

Chief's Corner  
ECFR receives EMS equipment grants  
Vegetation Management

Our "Open House" is really geared towards providing for a great family event. There will be several activities for the children along with information pertaining to public safety. This is a great opportunity for our community to come and see the station located at 600 NE 267th Ave. and to meet the firefighters. This year, the Board of Fire Commissioners will be considering a request to approve a large PPE equipment purchase. The fire district needs to replace our old Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). They are 15 years old and are the firefighters most important piece of personal protective equipment. The SCBA supplies the firefighter with clean air to breath while fighting fires. Also, ECFR needs your help, the fire district is in need of volunteer firefighters. All across the United States, volunteer levels have decreased. If you are interested or know someone who wants to volunteer in the fire service, please see our website at [www.ecfr.us](http://www.ecfr.us) for information on how to apply.

## *ECFR receives 2 EMS equipment grants*

*"East County Fire and Rescue purchase's 2 automated external defibrillators and 1 portable suction unit using grant funds"*



East County Fire and Rescue was awarded grant funds from "Firehouse Subs" to purchase 2 automated external defibrillators "AED's". They are replacing old outdated defibrillators that were becoming unreliable.

With the help from a "Walmart" grant we were able to purchase one portable suction unit that is used for clearing the airway on medical patients. We appreciate the help that these vendors provided.

# Firewise Vegetation Management

## Home ignition Zones

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wild-fire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the **Intermediate Zone**: (5 to 30 feet), and the **Extended Zone**: (30 to 100 feet).

## Landscaping and Maintenance

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet) around the house. Keep your landscape in good condition.

## Emergency Responder Access

Ensure your homes have legible and clearly marked address numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.

Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from a fire.

