



Greetings!

In this issue, we're excited to share a number of updates and developments happening within your fire district.

Message from the Fire Chief

First, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Black, and I stepped into the role of Fire Chief in early 2025, following the retirement of Chief Ed Hartin. After a long and distinguished career in the fire service, Chief Hartin made the well-deserved decision to retire and spend time traveling the country with his wife, Sue. We thank him for his leadership and service to the community.

As your Fire Chief, I am committed to ensuring that East County Fire and Rescue provides the highest possible level of care to our residents. Part of that commitment includes investing in leadership, and I'm pleased to introduce Deputy Chief Sammy Brown. Chief Brown brings a wealth of experience from previous roles in both Florida and Washington, most recently with Boeing. His expertise will further strengthen our training programs and operation readiness.

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East County Fire and Rescue
600 NE 267th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607
(360) 834-4908

Winter Safety

As temperatures drop, heating equipment remains one of the leading causes of home fires. A few simple precautions can go a long way in keeping your home safe this season.

Space heaters: Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall outlet—never into a power strip or extension cord.

Wood-burning stoves and fireplaces: Use only dry, well-seasoned wood to reduce creosote buildup. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually to help prevent chimney fires.

Firewood storage: Store firewood outside the home, away from exterior walls. Bring wood inside only as needed to reduce fire risk and prevent pests. Taking a few moments to check your heating setup can help protect your home and family throughout the winter months.

Apparatus Update

To improve service delivery and reduce the rising maintenance costs associated with aging equipment, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a new Fire Engine (Pumper), and Water Tender (Tanker). These new units will replace older apparatus that have exceeded their service life and have become less reliable and increasingly costly to maintain. Both units should be received in 2026.

Tender 93



Engine 94



Staffing and Call Volume

In 2025 the shifts were increased from four to five firefighters per shift. Increasing staffing to five personnel per shift, ECFR has greatly strengthened its operational readiness and ability to deliver 24—hour emergency coverage. Station 91 (600 NE 267th Ave) maintains continuous staffing, while Station 94 (352nd Ave) is staffed the majority of days to ensure comprehensive district coverage.

In 2025 ECFR responded to 1,216 calls for service.



Volunteer Fire Academy and Live Burn Box

This last year, ECFR welcomed 15 new volunteer firefighters and completed our first full academy. These volunteers play a critical role in supplementing our career staff and improving response times.

If you are interested in volunteering with East County Fire and Rescue, we are planning another volunteer academy in the spring of 2026. Please visit our website and fill out an application, and thank you for your interest in helping your community. If you have experience driving a truck or operating large equipment, we can train you to drive and operate a water tender (a large truck used to supply water for firefighting operations where there are no hydrants). This position does not require you to attend an academy and allows you to still volunteer without being a combat rated firefighter.

Thanks to the hard work of our crews, the burn box at Station 91 is now operational. This live—fire training prop allows personnel to gain hands—on experience in realistic fire conditions. If you see smoke at the station—don't worry—it's training in progress as we continue to meet our mission of continuous improvement.

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Financial Highlights

The District remains debt free and is proud to have received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second consecutive year, a recognition of sound financial planning and transparency.

New Partnership with DNR

You may have noticed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) vehicles parked at Station 93 on 312th Ave. ECFR recently entered into a partnership with DNR, and as of 2025, DNR signed a lease to use the station as a base for some of their area operations. This collaboration strengthens our relationship and boots DNR's ability to respond quickly to wildland fires in and around our district.

Do you have any questions?

If you have questions about what ECFR does please visit our webpage at www.ecfr.us, visit the main station at 600 NE 267th Ave, Camas or email me at sblack@ecfr.us.

Calendar of Events

Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings
First and third Tuesdays of every month.
6:30 pm at Station 91
600 NE 267th Avenue, Camas, WA

Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate the ongoing support from our community and look forward to serving you throughout the year. On behalf of everyone at East County Fire and Rescue, we wish you a safe and enjoyable year.

Give us a call at (360) 834-4908 or visit www.ecfr.us or scan the QR code to the right for more information.



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