



GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

September 2026

September

1. Operational Overview

We concluded the month of August with 86 calls for service.

All our assets are off State Mobilization following a 28-day period of operation. I would like to thank Sheena McKiernan and Jake Sandstrom for their participation and flexibility during the district's first deployment, as well as Captain Friesen's leadership in maintaining members' NWCG certifications.

We will be conducting an open house on September 10th to further inform the public about recent operational activities, deployment outcomes, and ongoing initiatives within the district. This event will provide an opportunity for community members to engage directly with district leaders, ask questions, and gain a comprehensive understanding of our efforts and future plans.

We have submitted the final pieces of information to WSRB, completing all required documentation and data verification processes, and we are anticipating a grading soon.

Our bathroom remodel is in full swing. We would like to sincerely thank Lucas Naves for all his hard work and dedication throughout the entire remodeling process, which has involved careful planning, coordination, and execution to enhance both the functionality and aesthetic of the space.

We have entered into a partnership with Soap Lake School district to instruct a Fire Science Program one period a day. Captain Forrest will serve as the lead instructor and will also coordinate with and pull adjunct instructors from within the district to support the program. All wages and related compensation for these instructional roles are paid in full by the Soap Lake School District. The district's responsibilities include providing authorized leave for Captain Forrest on Friday mornings during class sessions, as well as supplying the necessary equipment to facilitate effective instruction. This collaboration is designed to establish a direct pipeline to our Cadet program, fostering early engagement and interest, and ultimately recruiting future volunteers at a young age.

We are evaluating an agreement with Columbia Basin Hospital to participate in their RQI program, whereby providers will demonstrate CPR, ACLS, and PALS quarterly, thereby eliminating the need for traditional classes.



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2. Apparatus and Fleet

The new tender is currently nearing completion. We are focused on the final internal and mechanical checks to ensure everything meets our operational standards. A major component of the remaining work involves exterior finishing, specifically the application of reflective striping and departmental decals. Maintaining our brush and wildland fleet has took precedence over all projects, reflecting our commitment to readiness and reliability across all operational vehicles.

Captain Harper will be attending the Fire Mechanics conference in Wenatchee the week of 9/15, where he will participate in specialized training sessions and practical evaluations to test for his EV Technician certifications, enhancing his expertise in vehicle maintenance and repair.

3. Community Engagement

Tea with Chief

Each Thursday morning, residents could meet the members of staff at the Cloud View Cafe, a popular local establishment known for its welcoming atmosphere and delicious coffee.

We are preparing for the Decades of Distinction care show at Sun Lakes Resort on 9/19, where we will be providing a hands-on, dynamic display and extrication demonstration. This event will showcase advanced techniques and equipment used in emergency rescue operations, allowing attendees to engage directly with the process and gain a deeper understanding of the critical skills involved.

We would like to invite the community and the commission to our Open house on 9/10 from 6pm to 8pm. This event will provide a valuable opportunity to meet the cadets in person, explore a variety of informative displays, and witness live extrication demonstrations showcasing essential rescue techniques. Additionally, attendees can enjoy catering provided by Jimmy's Hot Dogs, ensuring a pleasant and engaging evening for all.

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4. Training

We continue to work on officer development and tactical skills during our officers' meetings, focusing on enhancing leadership qualities, decision-making abilities, and operational effectiveness. We are methodically progressing through the book and lesson plan of "It's Your Ship" by Captain Michael Abrashoff, which provides valuable insights into leadership, accountability, and fostering a positive command climate.

We also conducted an MCI crossover drill with our EMS providers, which was highly successful, enhancing coordination and response efficiency during mass casualty incidents. This drill offered valuable practical experience and reinforced essential communication protocols among team members. Currently, three members are attending the Columbia River Academy, which commenced last week, where they are receiving advanced training to further refine their emergency response skills. Additionally, three members are scheduled to remain closer to home and attend Ephrata's academy, beginning next week, enabling them to acquire vital knowledge and certifications while maintaining local operational readiness. Congratulations to Evan Bolyard for passing his FF1 evaluation and certification. Upon successful completion, we will have nearly half of our membership certified to the IFSAC FF1 standard.

MPD- Update Dr. Hodges presented a detailed proposal along with a draft contract for EMS services to the EMS council. The County EMS council voted to approve the terms proposed by Dr. Hodges, and effective July 1st, he will assume the role of our new MPD. The contract outlines a cost structure estimating approximately \$22 per call for Basic Life Support (BLS) providers and \$44 per call for Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers. This pricing model is intended to cover operational expenses and ensure the sustainable provision of services. I have scheduled a meeting with Dr. Hodges to discuss the strategic objectives of the EMS division. Additionally, we received a request from our neighbors in Coulee City and Hartline to participate in our EMS training.

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5. Grant Management

Management of all existing FEMA grants is a continuous and meticulous process that requires ongoing attention to detail and proactive oversight. We are diligently monitoring compliance and reporting requirements for each grant, including deadlines, documentation standards, and performance metrics, to ensure optimal utilization of the allocated funds and strict adherence to all federal guidelines.

This comprehensive approach helps prevent any potential issues related to fund mismanagement or non-compliance. Additionally, we have applied for the FEMA Safer grant for another 5 years, specifically targeting recruitment and retention efforts to

Looking Ahead

- ▶ Finish Capital Improvement Projects
- ▶ Prepare for Fire Prevention Week
- ▶ Support Community Fall Activities
- ▶ Conduct community education forums to discuss levy measure