



GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

September 2025

SEPTEMBER

1. Operational Overview

August and early September experienced a significant increase in call volume, encompassing numerous mutual aid incidents. These included a wildfire exceeding 400 acres in Douglas County, a wildfire/structure response in Ephrata for which we served as incident command, and multiple complex EMS transports and ALS assists in conjunction with Lifeline ambulance.

2. Apparatus and Fleet

Work in the fleet project remains the same due to increased call volume however a slow but steady process is being made. Our ongoing efforts in the fleet project continue, but at a slower pace than initially projected. This adjusted timeline is a direct result of the notable increase in call volume experienced recently. Despite these operational demands, we are pleased to report that slow but steady progress is consistently being made on the project. Each step forward, no matter how small, contributes significantly to our overarching goals for fleet readiness and efficiency.

- **Water Tender Build**

Continued work on the new water tender project using the Volvo chassis. The water tank from the previous (now out-of-service) water tender was successfully transferred and fits well. Fabrication is underway to prepare the unit for paint. This will be a significant addition to the district's fleet capabilities.

- **Old Tender Disposition**

The old water tender chassis is being prepped for auction and will be listed this month.

- **Brush 7124 Out of Service**

Brush Engine 7124 has been placed out of service, and a strategy is being developed for wildland response at Station 2 for the remainder of the season.

3. Community Engagement

- Fire District personnel participated in several outreach events during August and Scheduled for the first part of September, including:



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FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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- **Fire Drill Soap Lake Elementary/ High School**

On August 29, 2025, we conducted a comprehensive fire drill at Soap Lake Elementary High School. This drill involved all staff and focused on two key areas: the proper use of fire department sprinkler connections and ensuring both staff and students were prepared for a fire emergency. We plan to conduct additional drills with the school district in the future, including a collaborative effort with the Police Department to practice an active shooter response.

Car Show Sun Lakes Resort

We are excited to announce our participation in the upcoming Car Show at Sun Lakes Resort. Our team will be setting up a comprehensive booth focused on prevention, recruitment, and retention initiatives. A highlight of our presence will be a live demonstration of our new battery-operated extrication equipment, generously donated by the public. This state-of-the-art equipment significantly enhances our capabilities in emergency response, allowing for faster and safer extrications. We invite everyone to stop by our booth to learn more about fire safety, explore volunteer opportunities, and witness the power of this new technology in action.

4. Training

- Three of our members are currently attending the Columbia River Fire Academy, hosted by Grant County Fire District 3, which is scheduled to conclude at the end of the year. Upon completion, these members will achieve Firefighter 1 and Hazmat Operations certifications.
- I will be serving as an adjunct instructor for the aforementioned academy.
- Two members are completing ILS ridgetime/clinicals and will be completed the end of the month
- On September 16th, I am scheduled to meet with the MPD to discuss a new proposed OTEP program that incorporates Intermediate Life Support. This initiative aims to negate the requirement for membership to take the National Registry for recertification. Furthermore, we will explore the possibility of petitioning the state for an ILS license in the future.



GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

September 2025

- Captain Baback is presently developing a training calendar designed to mirror the curriculum of the fire academy. This effort is intended to ensure all personnel achieve Firefighter 1 equivalency, a factor that will contribute to our ISO rating scheduled for 2026.

5. Grant Management

- Semi-annual and quarterly reporting has been completed for the three active **FEMA grants**. These reports require detailed tracking and documentation to ensure continued funding and compliance.

6. Administrative Planning

- **Preliminary Budget Workshop:** A preliminary budget workshop has been scheduled for September 25, 2025. This critical meeting will be the initial step in outlining the financial framework for the upcoming fiscal year, allowing for an early review of departmental needs, revenue projections, and potential budgetary constraints. The goal is to establish a robust and realistic budget that supports the department's operational objectives and strategic initiatives.
- **Employment Matters Consultation:** I have initiated contact with Snure Law to discuss various employment matters. This engagement is to ensure that all departmental policies and procedures are in full compliance with current labor laws and best practices. The consultation will cover a range of topics, including employee relations, disciplinary protocols, and contract reviews, aiming to mitigate risks and foster a fair and productive work environment.
- **State Audit Progress:** The State Audit is proceeding smoothly and remains on track for timely completion. I extend my sincere gratitude to Chief Baker and Amber for their invaluable assistance and meticulous efforts in this extensive process. Their diligent work in preparing and organizing the necessary documentation has been instrumental in ensuring a transparent and efficient audit, reflecting positively on our department's commitment to financial accountability and operational integrity.

7. Looking Ahead

- Finalizing the water tender build and auctioning surplus apparatus.
- Begin FY26 Budget Process
- Aid and assist in the SAO audit process.



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9. INCIDENT SUMMARY – AUGUST 2025

Total Incidents This Month: 70

Type

EMS	43
FIRE	24
MVA	4
RV Fire	0

- See Pie Chart for further breakdown



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