



# GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

JUNE 2026

### May/June

#### 1. Operational Overview

We concluded the month of May with 65 calls for service, which included numerous wildfires both within our district and in neighboring districts. These incidents were largely driven by the unseasonably dry season conditions that increased fire risk across the region. Our crews performed exceptionally well under these challenging circumstances, successfully saving multiple dwellings from fire damage. In response to the evolving wildfire threats, we have implemented new wildland firefighting tactics designed to improve our operational effectiveness and safety during these complex incidents

Our video initiative, which highlights the rewarding nature of service within our department, the camaraderie among our personnel, and the vital role we fulfill in the community has been a great success. We have been averaging two new applications per week. Captain Forrest has been collaborating with the Stevens County Fire District #1 recruitment officer to streamline the onboarding process for new recruits, as well as developing task books, interview procedures, and conducting onboardings twice a month with academies to follow.

The direct mail pieces are designed to inform residents about the proposal to return the EMS levy to \$0.25 and the potential increase to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, providing detailed explanations of how these changes would impact funding for emergency medical services and the benefits to community health and safety.

I attended the Washington State Fire Chiefs conference, where I engaged with fellow fire service leaders to discuss emerging challenges, innovative strategies, and collaborative opportunities to enhance fire and emergency medical services throughout the state. Chairman McKiernan and I also attended the Spring Seminar in Lake Chelan. Additionally, I continue to serve on the State Fire Chiefs EMS Committee, contributing to statewide EMS policy development and operational improvements. I also maintain my role on the Regional EMS Committee, where we focus on coordinating EMS resources and protocols to ensure effective regional response and patient care.

**SLPC Update-** The Cadets attended youth leadership training and engage with other prevention groups throughout the state at the Great Wolf Lodge on May 18th. We also have 5 cadets attending CATCA in Orlando Florida in July as well as we have finalized a Fire Science program within the High School for one period a day in 2026/27 school year.

We have completed the testing of all our structure hoses, as well as pump testing, confirming that each hose meets the required safety and performance standards. Moreover, we have been meticulously addressing the checklist provided by WSRB, thoroughly attending to each item to ensure full compliance and readiness for the upcoming audit now scheduled for 6/23/2026.

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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 willand fleet has took presidentce over all projects, reflecting our commitment to readiness and reliability across all operational vehicles.

We have added an off-road forklift to the fleet, enhancing our capability to operate efficiently in rugged and uneven terrains where standard forklifts may not perform optimally.

We will be acquiring a 6x6 vehicle through the FEPP program; for this tactical tender build, we already have a tank and motor prepared, ensuring the unit will be fully equipped to meet the demands of complex emergency scenarios. We have equipped 7120 according to DNR specifications to ensure it is deployable for state mobilizations. This includes meeting all required safety standards, communication capabilities, and operational readiness criteria mandated by the department, allowing for seamless integration into statewide emergency response efforts.

#### 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 took part in Ephrata's touch a truck event, as well as the Kids Carnival at the Sun Lake's resort. I attended the Chief for the Day Event and Parade in Ephrata as well as supported the Inland Northwest Fire Academy graduation in North Spokane.



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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.

The implementation of the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protocols has required substantial modification to our training schedule and requirements. To guarantee that all personnel are fully compliant and proficient, we have increased our mandatory EMS training frequency from monthly to bimonthly. This enhanced, more rigorous schedule is designed to provide both foundational review and practical application. Currently, four members are enrolled in EMT training and one will participate in their skills day at the end of the month.

MPD- Update Dr. Hodges presented to the EMS council a detailed proposal along with a draft contract for EMS services. The contract outlines a cost structure that estimates 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 the operational expenses and ensure sustainable service delivery. At this time, the EMS council is still reviewing the proposal and has not reached a final decision regarding the acceptance or modification of the contract terms.

The successful implementation of this wild-land program represents more than a mere training milestone; it is anticipated to become a significant new revenue source for the department. By obtaining NWCG certification, we will acquire the capability to deploy our specialized units and trained personnel for State Mobilizations.

June 2026

### 5. Grant Management

Management of all existing FEMA grants is a continuous and meticulous process. We are diligently monitoring compliance and reporting requirements for each grant to ensure optimal utilization of the allocated funds and strict adherence to all federal guidelines. We have received reimbursement, although it was delayed. Due to the recent significant backlog and operational challenges within FEMA, we have encountered a considerable delay in obtaining reimbursements for costs already incurred.

### 6. Looking Ahead

- Continue severity staffing models for 4th of July/ Red Flag warnings
- WSRB Audit
- Prepare for the upcoming EMS levy.
- Implement Capital Improvement projects- Bathrooms/ Painting Station 2.
  
- Participate in Summer Community Events.

June 2026