



Chelan County Fire District 1 & Douglas County Fire District 2 *2021 Newsletter*



A Word from Fire Chief Brian Brett

Greetings residents of Douglas County Fire District 2 and Chelan County Fire District 1,

As you may have heard, both Fire Districts are currently working together to study the feasibility becoming one district. As such, DCFD2 and CCFD1 have signed a temporary Interlocal Agreement for Administrative Services which expires in 24-months. The two Chiefs that preceded me, Chief Dave Baker and Chief Mike Burnett, established such a positive trajectory for both Districts that we are currently functioning operationally as if we were one District. However, we will objectively evaluate the options available to each District and ensure we choose the course of action that provides the highest level of service, reduces or eliminates redundancies, all while preserving the assets, history, and tradition of the respective Districts.

There are four options to consider:

- 1. Status Quo.** If the Districts decide to maintain the status quo, the temporary agreements and decisions in place that will have to be modified, or ended, while planning to reestablish each District as a stand-alone entity. The current level of cooperation will continue, including automatic aid agreements and joint training.
- 2. Contract for Services.** Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) may be renegotiated and expanded to continue the Administrative and Operational components of the respective Districts. Currently, the Districts have ILAs for Administrative Services, Training, and Fleets, which eliminate duplication of resources and streamline management. The ILAs allow each District to retain its own taxing authority and separate Boards of Commissioners retain control of their respective Districts.
- 3. Annexation/Merger.** A merger would involve just the Fire Districts. Given that the City of Wenatchee, City of East Wenatchee, and the City of Rock Island are already annexed into the Fire Districts, a merger of DCFD2 and CCFD1 is possible. Mergers may cross county lines.
- 4. Regional Fire Authority.** Regional Fire Authorities are authorized by statute for both cities and fire districts. Essentially, an RFA operates in a very similar manner as a contract for services with voter approval, shared governance, and the creation of an independent municipal corporation with its own taxing authority and statutory framework. Each participating District may be included in the RFA, and multiple counties are allowed.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the feasibility study.

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(Fire Chief Brian Brett, continued from Page 1)

Your Fire Districts continue to be very busy throughout the year. Our Districts are far from the “small” communities a lot of us grew up with here. Our community expects an urban service delivery level; as such we not only provide fire response, but we also provide auto extrication, rope rescue, confined space rescue, water rescue, and hazardous materials response. Our success is derived from available, trained, and experienced personnel.

Chelan County Fire District 1 – 2020 Incident Summary

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	223	7.38%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	3	0.1%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1815	60.1%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	89	2.95%
Service Call	140	4.64%
Good Intent Call	458	15.17%
False Alarm & False Call	278	9.21%
Special Incident Type	14	0.46%
TOTAL	3020	100%

Douglas County Fire District 2 – 2020 Incident Summary

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	172	10.82%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	3	0.19%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	873	54.94%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	37	2.33%
Service Call	97	6.1%
Good Intent Call	287	18.06%
False Alarm & False Call	116	7.3%
Special Incident Type	4	0.25%
TOTAL	1589	100%

The goal for both Districts is to staff our fire apparatus with a minimum of three personnel to legally engage in the rescue of a verified occupant trapped in a building fire.

Open Houses:

Sadly, Douglas County Fire District 2 and Chelan County Fire District 1 have decided to cancel our Open House event because of the current Covid-19 pandemic. As soon as possible, we will gladly show off our new facilities to our community.

The new Douglas County Fire District 2 fire station, located at 240 35th St NW, will be staffed beginning September 14. Additionally, the Rock Island Fire station will likely break ground in the spring of 2022.

Thank you for supporting your Fire Districts!

Brian Brett, Fire Chief

How our two Fire Districts currently compare:

	DCFD2	CCFD1
Population	29,839	44,000
Incidents	1,589	3,020
WSRB Community Protection Class	5	4
Volunteer Combat	15	15
Volunteer Wildland	N/A	3
Volunteer Resident	14	20
Volunteer Support	1	14
Fleet Assets	\$7,028,475	\$8,651,500
Facilities Assets	\$13,691,040	\$13,533,509
Equipment Assets	\$1,020,000	\$1,692,500
Assessed Valuation 2021	\$5,134,429,355	\$5,528,713,923
Levy Rate 2021 (per \$1,000 of assessed value)	1.3500	1.3843
Average AV Growth 2016-2021	8.20%	7.70%
Assigned Shift Personnel	DCF 22	36
Property Tax & Contract Revenue	\$6,998,749	\$8,128,009
Operating Expenses	\$6,126,110	\$7,484,833
Debt Service	\$637,000	\$537,743
Employees	29	48

Thank you for your service, all 134 years!

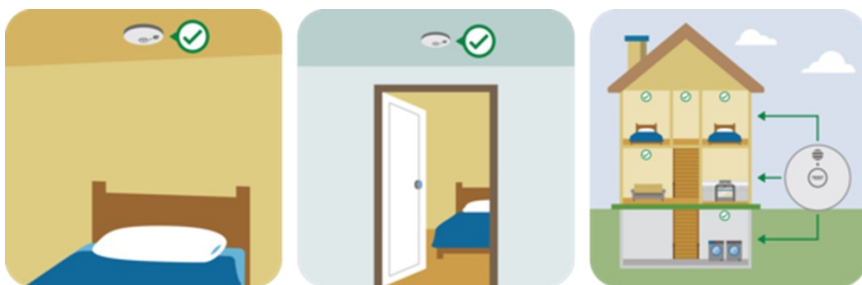
Suanne Robbins, Executive Assistant, 42 years

Dave Baker, Fire Chief, 36 years

Mike Soltwisch, Captain, 36 years

Kris Felty, Office Assistant, 20 years

Suanne, Dave, Mike, and Kris: The fire district is amazing because of your dedication and service. We cannot express our gratitude sufficiently for what you have all done. You are a blessing to our community. Enjoy your retirement!



Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9 and this year's theme is "Learn the sounds of Fire Safety."

Install smoke alarms inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home.

Create a home fire escape plan. Find two ways out of every room in your home and two ways out of your home. **Practice your plan at least 2 times a year.**

Join the Emergency Response Team protecting your Community!

CCFD1 and DCFD2 are recruiting volunteer members to join our team of first responders. The districts provide all-hazard response including structure and wildland fire protection, emergency medical services, rope and water rescue. If you have an interest in any, or all, of these response areas, contact us to join our team.



Deputy Chief Rick McBride
Volunteer Coordinator
Chelan County Fire District 1 &
Douglas County Fire District 2
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Reduce Wildfire Risk with a Free Home Assessment

As cooler temperatures and rain arrive, our wetter seasons are a great time of year to remove hazardous vegetation and to add fire resistant plants to improve your home's defensible space. If you're not sure where to start, we're here to help! Our staff conduct **FREE home assessments and provide a detailed report with recommendations to reduce your wildfire risk.** This face to face consultation is a great time to answer your wildfire risk questions and hear first-hand what experts in the field have to share. To schedule a home assessment in either DCFD2 or CCFD1, visit www.chelancountyfire.com/wildfire and click the "schedule a home assessment" button. Also, check out our wildfire blog while you're visiting the site.

ECRWSS
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LOCAL

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A Newsletter from Your Fire Districts