



Chelan County Fire District #6

Summer 2026 NEWSLETTER



Levy Funding Allows Us to Leverage Federal Grants

Thank you to **Congresswoman Dr. Kim Schrier** for providing \$1 million in funding through the Community Project Funding program! Dr. Schrier has been a strong supporter of Chelan County Fire District #6. She and her local liaison **Ruby Gaston** have made repeated visits to our fire district in order to gain an understanding of our unique community and its emergency operations needs.

Thanks to you, our citizens, we have the \$250,000 required funding match (total project \$1.25 million), now available through levy funds, to purchase not just one but TWO new Wildland Interface Fire Engines!

The 2 new engines are ordered with delivery scheduled to occur in 18 months (soonest we can get them here). In the meantime, we will need to spend \$100,000 to retrofit two of our fire stations so we can fit the new engines inside.

Our 50+ year-old fire stations need major repair or replacement as there exist numerous deficiencies that require continuing costly investments and maintenance. The condition & limited volunteer staffing of these stations has resulted in removal of two of our four stations from operational consideration by the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. This outcome has negatively impacted our Protection Class Rating, which is used by insurance companies to help set premiums, resulting in higher home insurance costs.



Congresswoman **Dr. Kim Schrier** visited Dryden to discuss operations and current needs with Fire Commissioner **Phil Guthrie** and Fire District #6 personnel.

A Message From Your Fire Chief

Thanks to the increased operational funding provided by you, our citizens, we are able to start upgrading our apparatus and equipment. With \$10 million in unmet mission critical needs, it will take us several years to dig-out of the hole; but we are off to a good start.

Whenever possible we are seeking to “leverage” your levy funding with external grant money. We are currently exploring grant funding opportunities for the purchase of equipment to outfit our new fire engines and to assemble a “wildfire equipment cache” that would enable us to quickly construct fire breaks around local wildfires.

We are also investing in training our volunteers and recruiting new firefighters & EMT's. I am proud of our 8 volunteer officers who donated 32 hours each to attend the Officers Training Academy this winter. This training was held in partnership with the fire districts based in Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee.

We learned a great deal during last summer's Labor Mountain and Lower Sugarloaf wildfires. We have already begun preparing apparatus, equipment, staffing, and training to ensure we are ready to respond quickly and effectively to the next wildfire incident. The US Forest Service and WA Department of Natural Resources provide forest protection during wildfires (no structure protection). You rely on us, your local fire district volunteers, to provide fire protection for your homes and outbuildings.

In closing, I would like to recognize the dedication of our volunteers who give countless hours to protect your fire district. Their hard work and professionalism are essential to our success.

Sincerely,
Andy Lee, Fire Chief



Trial “Resident Firefighter” Program Hugely Successful

Garrett Hidgon and **Jerrad Collins**, are two of our young energetic firefighters. They took it upon themselves to design a weekend Resident Firefighter program to guarantee faster emergency response coverage. This is because the average time for our volunteers responding from home is 20 minutes to get a fire truck out the fire station door.

In February they made a presentation and received encouragement to launch a trial program out of the Dryden fire station. They set up 12-hour shifts every weekend for 13 weeks. Their goal was to see whether they could achieve a faster response time, with a reliable 2-person crew, to your 9-1-1 calls. The resident program volunteers were able to get a truck out the door and in route to emergencies in 2-3 minutes; 95% of the time! In total they responded to 26 calls (2 calls per weekend); 20 medical and 6 fire related calls.

The four most active volunteers participating in the program were **Garrett, Jerrad, Morgan Rollman and Conner Sullivan**. They each donated more than 150 hours towards ensuring the success of the program; another 8 volunteers also donated time. All totaled 600+ hours were contributed. If these volunteers

were paid at \$25.00 per hour, this reflects a \$15,000 donation towards improving community safety.

“I am proud of this young crew! Their timely response and quick organization on scene resulted in better health outcomes and less property loss to fire” says Fire Chief Andy Lee.

Establishment of a permanent Resident Firefighter program will require costly code and function updates to our current fire stations or construction of a new regional Fire Station so that we have sleeping quarters and living space.



Enthusiastic participants in our trial resident firefighter program included (left to right) **Jarrad Collins, Garrett Hidgon and Morgan Rollman.**



Need Wildfire Info?

Fire Commissioner Meetings:

Meetings held the second Wednesday of each month at the Monitor Fire Station and begin at 7:00 PM.

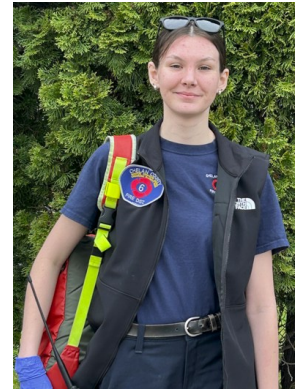
Meeting Agenda and Minutes are posted on our website: chelanfd6.org

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Tim Larson
Phil Guthrie
Ray Schmitten

Volunteer Firefighter Spotlights

Rebecca Bauman enjoys medical problem-solving. She quickly determines the nature of an EMS call through skilled questioning and physical assessments. During an emergency situation, she shifts into gear quickly, makes a plan and acts on it. Eventually she plans to train as a Paramedic.



When does a car accident provide funding for a career change? Rebecca was at a cross-roads, trying to figure out what career to pursue. One day she was involved in a minor car accident for which she was not at fault. The outcome resulted in a check from the insurance company of the at-fault driver. Meanwhile, Rebecca received a mailing from Wenatchee Valley College concerning the upcoming offering of an EMT program. She assumed that “the stars were aligning”, and so instead of repairing her car, she used her recently acquired funds to enroll in the EMT program; this changed her career path.

Rebecca likes helping her neighbors in-need; especially older residents. She enjoys working with her fellow EMT's **Kate Flansburg** and **Jerrad Collins** as well as the **EMT's at the City of Cashmere Fire Department**. She says these folks provide awesome care and are always willing to work with her.

Rebecca says this fire district is very welcoming and we need more EMT's. She invites you to come join up (saying that “you do not have to fight fires if you don't want to!”).

Morgan Rollman is training to be an EMT, and to fight structure and wildland fires. She signed up as a volunteer for us one afternoon and started a 6-week wildland fire training class that evening. She “enjoys fire ecology and all things fire”. She's a social coordinator, organizer and can't wait to be an officer in our fire district. She is a hard worker with a big-heart who is passionate about “helping this fire district become the best that it can be.” Her future plans include becoming a Strike Team leader for wildland fires, responsible for helping keep our community safe during future big fires (such as the Labor Mountain fire).



*Firefighter **Morgan Rollman** volunteers to help **Jean Dennis** from the Dryden Improvement Club unload food for the Dryden Food Bank.*

We welcome **Brian Moore**, our new volunteer Public Information Officer. He gained years of public relations experience working for WA State Patrol. Brian's motivation for joining our team – to “give-back” and stay involved in public service in support of his community. He has established a new “X” and Instagram page and will be re-energizing our Facebook page.



These can be viewed at:

[X.com/ChelanFD6](https://x.com/ChelanFD6)

[Instagram.com/ChelanFD6](https://www.instagram.com/ChelanFD6)

Chelan County Fire District #6

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Website: ChelanFD6.org
Instagram.com/ChelanFD6
X.com/ChelanFD6

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

New Levy Funding Enables Us to Provide Better 911 Services

Thanks to the 71% voter approval of our levy request last August, we are moving forward with several actions to address shortfalls that limited our operational responses for the past 20 years. We are excited about these operational improvements:

- **Hiring 1 New Firefighter:** The employment of Deputy Chief **Steven Spies** effectively doubled our paid firefighting force. This position enhances our on-site incident management capabilities and provides guidance to the volunteer firefighters/EMTs responding to your emergency needs.
- **Acquiring New Accident Equipment:** New lightweight battery-operated extrication equipment will replace our 50-year-old "jaws of life." The old equipment repeatedly fails when firefighters attempt to free trapped occupants after an automobile collision.
- **Adding Paid Summer Firefighters:** We are hiring 4 summer seasonal wildland firefighters/EMTs. This will result in daytime staffing 7 days a week, from late May through early October. These individuals will be ready for immediate response to your 9-1-1 calls and wildfire events.
- **Enhancing Our EMS Program:** We are working hard to provide faster response to your medical assistance calls. We have 3 active EMT's and 4 new recruits currently in training for EMT certification. Beginning in August we will launch a new program to enable scheduled shifts and access to a rescue pickup so they can respond immediately to your calls for assistance.
- **Purchasing 2 New Pickup Trucks:** The Chiefs command vehicles, (their "office on wheels") serve as the communications hub for incident management. The old trucks are too often subject to breakdowns in route to incidents resulting in frustration and delayed action on emergency scenes.