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## A Message From The Chief

Spring/Summer 2024

I am extremely proud to lead Chelan County Fire District 6. We have an amazing group of Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs. I believe the district has come a long way in the last couple of years. Recruitment has doubled and morale and motivation have increased amongst our Volunteer Firefighters.

We appreciated your active participation in our public meetings held earlier this year. We strive to keep you informed about what is going on in our Fire District and the actions we are taking to improve services in our communities. We are pleased that our new 6 year strategic plan is complete.

We are excited to begin the next phase of action-plan implementation to provide the "level of fire and EMS services" that you told us you want from us. We. Do. Listen.

It will always be our goal to provide the best possible fire and EMS services to our communities. We respond as quickly as possible to your fire & EMS calls. We stabilize EMS patients (providing CPR, etc.) until an ambulance responds for transport of the patient. On fires we arrive with a large crew seeking to suppress the fire as rapidly as possible.

We would like to thank you for your continued support as we grow as a fire district. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED



Fire Chief Andy Lee

## It is Wildfire Season!

As evidenced by a recent wildfire along Camas Creek, the wildfire season arrived early this year. In April, your Fire District #6 wildland fire crew of 20 individuals, augmented by fire fighting partners from surrounding fire districts, Washington DNR and the USFS, responded immediately to a fire sparked by a brush burning incident. Suppression operations were completed after a 6-hour engagement effectively protecting numerous homes and structures.

Our community has a higher Wildfire Hazard Potential than 99% of communities in the state. It is not too late to take action to protect your home from wildland fires this summer. Employing Fire Wise practices to minimize risk to your home including thinning trees and brush and choosing fire-resistant landscaping plants, selecting ignition-resistant building materials and positioning structures away from slopes will help keep your home safe.



During the fire season, Chelan County maintains an Emergency Incidents Map on-line at which you can determine whether your residence is under an evacuation order. Chelan County Emergency Management provides emergency alerts via text, email or voicemail to residents who have signed up for the service on-line. You can sign up for this program at: <https://www.everbridge.com/platform/applications/#publicSafetyContent>

Use these options as well as the Fire District #6 Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/CCFD6/>) to stay informed of fire activity in your area.

# Our New Strategic Plan for Operations 2024-2030



We recently completed our first-ever strategic plan. This action-oriented plan will guide fire and life safety operations over the next 6 years. Input was obtained from district residents, volunteer firefighters,

businesses and leadership through numerous public meetings held from November through February. These meetings sought to inform the public of district operations and seek feedback regarding the level of emergency services desired. Residents expressed concern over service limitations that result directly from the limited funding available to the district through current taxing constraints (taxes have not gone up since 1955). The current fire district levy rate on your tax bill ranges from \$65.38 per year (for a home valued at \$200,000) to \$261.52 per year (for a home valued at \$800,000). Volunteer firefighters, citizens and leadership pinpointed the strengths and weaknesses of the fire district. We want you to know that your voices were heard during the public meetings.

A number of noteworthy comments were received from the public including:

*"Why no levy rate increase since 1955"?*

*"This fire district needs to make a 9-1-1 call to*

*the public. The public needs to respond and provide better facilities, equipment and apparatus, and firefighter volunteer incentives."*

*"We need a new fire station, now!"*

*"The needs of this fire district are a very high priority. It should be treated with a sense of urgency. No. More. Procrastinating!"*



Blewett Pass resident Michelle Mazzola, Resource Solutions LLC, led our strategic planning process. Our new action-oriented strategic plan is available to the public. Just email Fire Chief Andy Lee to request a copy. The strategic plan is a road map to solving the identified operational shortcomings. This includes construction of a new regional fire station in Dryden (where 85% of responses now come from), enhanced firefighter staffing models to enable a more rapid response to your 9-1-1 calls, and replacement of outdated/unsafe equipment and apparatus.

We will seek opportunities to gain your additional feedback on these initiatives through public workshops and open houses during the coming year.

## Pancake Griddles Donated to Firefighters by Dryden Community Church:

Fire District 6 appreciates a recent donation of pancake griddles that will be used to prepare food for firefighters and for residents when attending community breakfast events. The donation was presented to Fire Chief Andy Lee by Dryden Community Church member Jean Dennis.

**Tax Deductible Donations to help us replace 30-50 year-old equipment are greatly appreciated! Financial Donations can be made payable to: Chelan County Fire District 6 and mailed to: PO BOX 296, Monitor, WA 98836**



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## Our New Volunteers!



*Chelan County Fire District #6 New Volunteer Firefighters.*

*Left to right: Gerett Higdon, Jerrad Collins, Fernando Bettencourt, Mario Chavira, Dawson Spies and Drake Hesselschwardt.*

*New Recruits Currently In Training (Not Pictured): Rebecca Slotta EMT, Josh Frost paramedic, Dan Byrnes EMT, Andy Woods, Cordell Lak, Alejandro Sanchez, Conner Sullivan, Austin Chornyak, Francisco Maravilla*

Chelan County Fire District #6 recently inducted its first class of New Firefighters in 15 years. These new Volunteer Firefighters have invested numerous unpaid hours in training to qualify for these positions. The courses successfully completed by the recruits included 200 hours of Structure Fire training, 50 hours of Wildland Fire training and 150 hours of EMT training. Additionally, we have a number of new recruits currently receiving Firefighter, EMT and/or Paramedic training.

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## Volunteer Spotlight

**Steven Spies**, Assistant Fire Chief is a “happy go lucky” leader with a big smile. He has served as a magnet to those around him as he has served as a volunteer firefighter with Chelan County Fire District 6 for 30 years. While holding down his full-time day job, he has always been willing to lend a hand to those in need. When you have called 9-1-1, he has responded from the Dryden Fire Station 170 times during his evenings and weekends over the past year (in total he has responded to your calls more than 2,500 times during his career). Often times this means only getting 4 hours of sleep (or less!) before rolling out for work the next morning.

Steven is a second-generation firefighter (his dad Mike served as a firefighter in our communities for 25 years). Steven’s son Dawson is following a similar path and is a new firefighter recruit for our fire district. Dawson has recently invested 400 volunteer hours becoming trained as a firefighter/EMT.

Steven noted that when he started as a firefighter in 1994, each firefighter received only 16 hours of training. “Now I’m learning new firefighting techniques from Dawson” laughs Steven.

Steven joins a crew of 56 dedicated volunteer firefighters. If Steven had to select a preference, he states that he would prefer to respond to wildland fires as this type of incident takes advantage of his best skills. He says that joining the local firefighting team to develop an immediate strategy to tackle such incidents and doing our level-best to protect your homes and property, is what being a good neighbor is all about. “As long as the residents of Fire District 6 need me, I plan to be here to help” says Steven.



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## Your Fire Commissioners

**Phil Guthrie**, Dryden

**Tim Larson**, Monitor

### Upcoming Fire Commissioner Meetings:

July 10, 7:00 PM, Peshastin Fire Station

August 14, 7:00 PM, Vally Hi/Blewett Fire Station

**The public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.**



## Chelan County Fire District #6

PO Box 296  
Monitor, WA 98836  
509-663-1678

<http://facebook.com/ccfd6>

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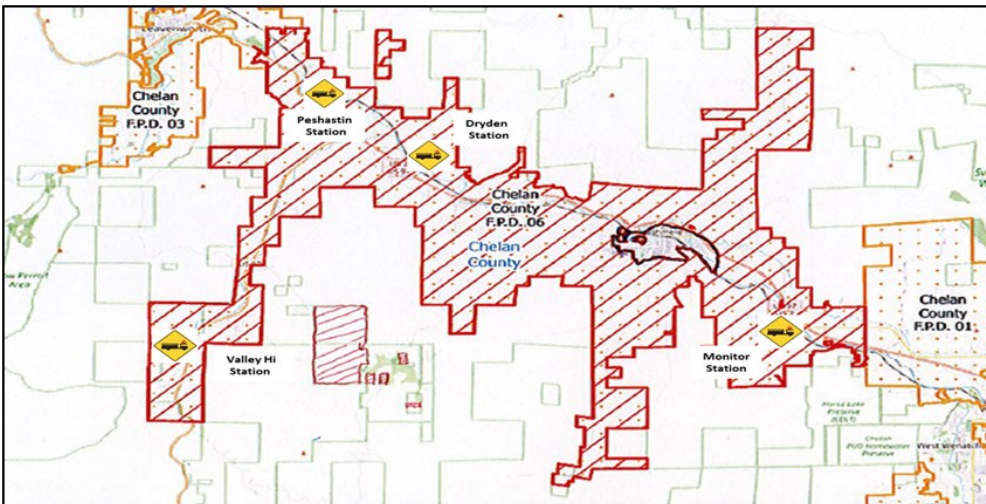
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### RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

## Chelan County Fire District # 6 Service Area



= Chelan Co. FD #6  
Fire Station



= Cashmere Fire Dept.  
Service Area

Chelan County Fire District # 6 provides emergency response services to an area covering 45 square miles and includes a population of over 7,314 residents. Our service area extends along US highway 2/97 from its border with Fire District 3 (Leavenworth, WA) on the west to its border with Wenatchee Valley Fire on the east covering the communities of Peshastin, Dryden and Monitor. The district extends south on US Highway 97 to encompass the community of Valley Hi, residents along Ingalls Creek, Camas Creek and adjoining Washington Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service land. We rely upon a volunteer staff of 56 individuals along with Chief Andy Lee to protect residents and visitors to our communities.

### Volunteers Needed-Community Building Opportunities:

Fire Fighters and EMS Providers  
Grief Counselor for Firefighters/EMTs  
Apparatus & Equipment cleaning and safety checks (join a work party).

### Contact Chief Andy Lee

509-663-1678

Email: [a\\_lee@ccfd6.net](mailto:a_lee@ccfd6.net)