



CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

DISTRICT DISPATCH

SPRING 2026

CLALLAMFIRE2.ORG

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING

Rising Demand Pushes Need for Upgrades

Our fire district has seen dramatic growth in the demand for services. In the past 10 years our emergency call volume has increased 42%. Since 2011 the emergency call volume has increased 114%.

In order to meet these demands, the fire district had to adopt a new service delivery model that incorporated full-time career firefighters starting in 2012. While our volunteer firefighters and EMTs continue to serve the fire district on a daily basis, the increasing call volume placed demands on the volunteers that were unsustainable.

With the growing demands and transition to a combination fire district that uses full-time firefighters as well as volunteers, it was recognized that our current facilities do not meet the current or future needs of the citizens. Our primary fire stations in Gales Addition and Dry Creek were first constructed in the 1960s with a major remodel in the late 1970s.

Due to space constraints and how the original stations were constructed, there have been no major modifications to the fire stations since the late 1970s.

In 2016, a modular home was placed next to our Gales Addition fire station to house the full-time firefighters. Planning is underway to add a similar modular home next to our fire station in Dry Creek.

The Board of Fire Commissioners and staff at the fire district recognize that these are not long-term solutions for fire stations that will need to serve the community for decades to come.

Our current fire stations have none of the safety features to protect our firefighters from vehicle exhaust, there is limited space for modern fire apparatus, the

construction does not meet critical infrastructure needs, and there is limited space for storage of gear and decontamination.

We have been working on a Capital Facilities plan for the replacement of the fire stations in Gales Addition and Dry Creek. A site has been purchased in the 100 Block of Mt. Pleasant Road for a new east side fire station. The fire district is also working in partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe on a feasibility project to develop a

fire station near the Lower Elwha Health Clinic on Highway 101.

While we recognize that these types of projects are expensive, we have reached the point where our fire stations are limiting our ability to meet the ever-changing demands for emergency services. As this planning continues, public engagement and input will be critical as we move forward to ensure that our firefighters are kept safe, and the public's needs are met.

WORKING TOGETHER

Aid agreements benefit fire districts, residents, and taxpayers

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue serves the communities around the City of Port Angeles. While we provide services directly to our citizens, we also have several mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with our neighboring agencies. This helps to ensure that during larger or overlapping incidents, we can help our neighbors and receive help when needed.

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Impacts of Timber Revenue on Fire Districts

Interruption in timber funding can delay receipt of harvest revenue

Timber funding is a complex topic, but the impacts reach everyone through the revenues available to Special Service Districts such as schools, hospitals, fire, EMS, emergency services, and libraries.

Timber sales revenue from County Transfer (Trust) lands in Clallam County has long supported our smaller rural special districts. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for managing and projecting these revenues, which can be affected when outside objections disrupt planned sales.

Although now released, last year over 20 timber sales—about 30% of all 2025 proposals—were put on hold by the WA Lands Commissioner. The hold delays the receipt of harvest revenues by fire districts, schools, hospitals, and other local governments that rely on these sales. Fire districts can only replace these funds with voter-approved levy increases.

In Clallam County, the timber sales pause was estimated to lose \$11.8 million in revenue, according to the American Forest Resource Council. Although some fire districts in Clallam County fared well, Clallam County Fire Districts 2 and 3 fell short of DNR's 2025 revenue projections due to the pause. This lost revenue for District 2 would have covered the cost of two support vehicles purchased in FY 2025. It is uncertain if and when funds will be recovered.

When timber sales stall or decline, Clallam County's funding for essential public services and junior taxing districts suffers, directly threatening jobs and services like education and fire response. Interruptions in timber funding have a major local impact.

Any change in logging locations, revenue types, or timber volume directly impacts junior taxing district budgets, as affected counties may receive less funding. Carbon credit programs may not yield revenue equivalent to timber sales, further compounding the challenge for beneficiaries.

These funds are essential to fire districts and junior taxing districts, ensuring uninterrupted operations and public services.

Sustaining timber revenue is crucial for maintaining local services, jobs, and our overall quality of life. Without these funds,



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county services would face significant challenges that cannot be replaced by other revenue streams.

Clallam County and its special districts are the sole beneficiaries of trust land. Trust law requires DNR's undivided loyalty to them alone. State actions that prioritize other interests demonstrate divided loyalty, contrary to this duty.

As a trust land manager, DNR is responsible for generating revenue, managing trust assets prudently, and acting with undivided loyalty to designated beneficiaries, according to the Washington Supreme Court (*Skamania v. State of Washington*, 1984). The trustee's duty excludes consideration of other interests, regardless of their merit.

The first half of FY2026 produced the lowest timber sale volumes in Western

Washington in 22 years, with only 114,391 MBF (thousand board feet) sold, just 25% of the annual goal of 459,000 MBF. This historic shortfall follows Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove's pause of older forest timber sales and his announcement to remove an additional 77,000 acres from the harvestable land base. Current Q3 projections indicate the under-performance will continue, with only 34% of the Q3 planned quarterly volume scheduled for January and February auctions (Washington Communities and Schools Network).

Commissioner Upthegrove also plans to remove another 77,000 acres of legal timber from harvest. DNR now has about 48% of Western Washington forested trust lands available for harvest to generate trust beneficiary revenue.

Additionally, DNR's carbon offset plan threatens to dramatically reduce revenues for essential public services such as schools, universities, fire districts, and libraries, without benefiting the environment.

The conversation about timber sales and their effect on junior taxing districts is crucial for the future of our fire districts and community services. We must remain active and informed to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our fire districts.

Message from the Fire Commissioners

As your Board of Fire Commissioners, we are responsible for overseeing district finances, long range strategic planning, and policy development on behalf of the public. This includes overseeing top leadership, establishing policies and procedures, and ensuring sound financial management, such as budget approval. This update reflects our actions in these areas, as we continue to fulfill our responsibilities with transparency and dedication to the communities we serve.

WHO WE ARE

The Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners is comprised of three members, elected by the public.

As an independent junior taxing district, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is a standalone entity and is not governed or affiliated with any other City, County, or State entity. The Board of Fire Commissioners have the sole duty to represent the interests of the citizens who reside

within our fire district. Fire Commissioners are elected to overlapping six-year terms. This means that every two years, one of the three commissioner positions are up for election on a rotational basis.

EFFECTIVE POLICIES

As a governing body, one of our most important responsibilities is to establish policies that uphold ethical standards and safeguard public resources. We do this by adopting the annual budget; reviewing and approving monthly payroll and expenditure vouchers; ratifying collective bargaining agreements; ensuring compliance to laws and agreements; and adopting policies.

In the last two years, the Board of Fire Commissioners has adopted new financial policies to ensure the long term stability of the fire district. These policies are intended to provide full transparency to the public and set guidelines for the development of the annual budget.

SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

We follow a balanced budget model to manage financial resources. This approach is guided by:

- Taking care of our community and people.
- Providing a safe workplace, reliable equipment, and stable career.
- Being consistent: doing what we say we'll do.
- Make informed decisions that impact financials.
- Respect taxpayer dollars.

We remain committed to strengthening the foundation of Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue through actions that reflect a continued focus on transparency, accountability, and service to our communities. We welcome your engagement and input in your fire district. Together, we'll keep Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue ready to serve-today and into the future.

WORKING TOGETHER << CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In a mutual aid agreement, the responding agency must request assistance from a neighboring agency while in an automatic aid agreement, multiple agencies are dispatched on the initial alarm.

In the last year, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue entered into several new automatic aid agreements with the Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District #3 (Sequim). Now when a structure fire occurs in either of those jurisdictions,

all agencies are notified and send resources to assist.

In addition, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue and the Port Angeles Fire Department entered into an agreement to share a Chief Officer response rotation. The chief officers of both agencies now cooperate together to ensure at least one chief is available 24/7 to respond to larger or complex incidents that occur either in the fire district or City of Port Angeles.

Recently, Fire District 2 also entered into a new automatic aid agreement with Clallam County Fire District #4 (Joyce) for automatic responses to structure fires in the portion of our fire district west of the Elwha River, and we will provide additional resources to the area of Freshwater Bay.

These types of agreements help save the taxpayers money and increase safety by combining efforts to the lower frequency, high-risk events.

District Dispatch is a publication of Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue

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Board of Fire Commissioners

Keith Cortner – Chair
Dan Huff – Vice Chair
Steve Hopf – Commissioner

Serving the Communities of

Deer Park, Gales Addition, Black Diamond,
Dry Creek, Elwha, Lake Sutherland,
Mt. Pleasant



CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

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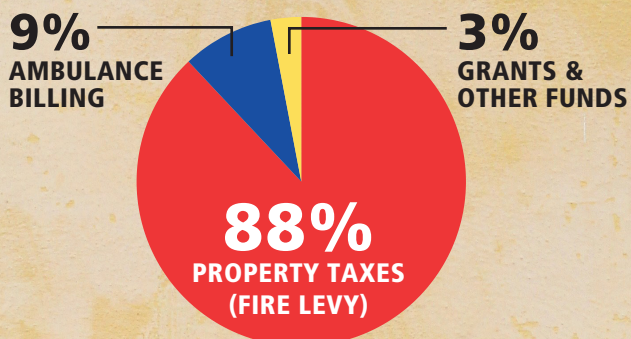
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QUICK FACTS



FUNDING



Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue receives no on-going federal, state or county funding. The majority of the revenue comes from local property taxes in the form of a fire levy. In 2025, these taxes provided 88% of the Fire District's funding. The additional funding comes from ambulance transport billing (9%) and grants, timber sale taxes, and other minor sources (3%). The fire district does not have a EMS levy at this time.

32% OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS

The Fire District experiences overlapping incidents 32% of the time. This means an incident is already in progress when another emergency call is received.

2025 EMERGENCY CALLS



68.2%
EMS



23.8%
Good Intent



3.9%
Fires



4.1%
False Alarms

OUR TEAM

The fire district employs 13 career members: 9 shift responders (captains, firefighter-paramedics/EMTs), fire chief, deputy fire chief, office manager, and a volunteer training coordinator. We also have 32 volunteer firefighters and EMTs who respond from home or work.