



GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

MAY 2026

April/ May

1. Operational Overview

We concluded the month of March with a total of 76 calls for service, including a structure fire in which the crews performed exceptionally well, thereby preventing what could have potentially consumed an entire city block due to exposure. Additionally, mutual aid was provided for an expansive brush fire in the Mattawa area.

We have launched the new Streamline website, successfully migrating all data from the previous site into the new ADA-compliant format.

We are pleased to report we are to final draft on our video initiative focusing on the rewarding nature of service within our department, the camaraderie among our personnel, and the essential role we play in the community.

Liz Loomis has finalized our EMS levy information mailers. These direct mail pieces are designed to inform residents about the proposal to return the EMS levy to \$0.25 and a potential increase to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. We invite the public to bring their comments to the next Board of Fire Commissioners (BOC) meeting on Jun 27th, 2026 6:30 AM at Station 1.

I will be attending the Washington State Fire Chiefs conference next week, where I will engage with fellow fire service leaders to discuss emerging challenges, innovative strategies, and collaborative opportunities to enhance fire and emergency medical services across the state. In addition to this, 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- We are enthusiastic about the future of the Prevention Coalition and the remarkable achievements of Captain Boldman. Collaboration has occurred with four additional Grant County coalitions to organize a Key Leader event this Thursday in Royal Slope. The Cadets will attend youth leadership training and engage with other prevention groups throughout the state at the Great Wolf Lodge on May 18th. We are currently planning for the State's 2026-2027 fiscal year and have secured funding of forty thousand dollars from the problem gambling grant. Additionally, we have partnered with Adult and Aging Care of Grant

County to refer to our hyper utilizers. We anticipate that this prevention braided funding will evolve into a CARES/Community Paramedicine program in the near future.

We have finalized testing of all our structure hoses, as well as pump testing, ensuring that each hose complies with the requisite safety and performance standards. Furthermore, we have been diligently addressing the checklist provided by WSRB, thoroughly attending to each item to guarantee full compliance and preparedness for the forthcoming audit scheduled for June 16th

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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.

We have added a new motor to B7224 which will significantly enhance the operational capability and performance of that brush unit, allowing it to better handle challenging terrain and extended firefighting operations.

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.

Captain Harper will also be finishing the LMTV, focusing on finalizing all necessary modifications and ensuring it is fully mission-ready for deployment.

We will equip 7121 according to DNR specifications to ensure it is deployable for state mobilizations.

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 the Earth Day celebration in downtown Soap Lake, painting rocks with children and establishing our recruitment tent.

Sticker Shock consists of specially designed stickers created by the cadets and coalition membership, aimed at raising awareness and actively preventing alcohol from being accessed or consumed by underage youth in our community.



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4. Training

Two members have successfully passed the FF1-practical in Ephrata, and now onto FF2 with a track to have all of our officers certified as FF1, FF2, and officer 1.

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.

This month, 13 of our members have attained certification in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) processes. This represents a significant milestone for the department, signifying progress in our operational capabilities and preparedness.

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.



We continue to work within our battalions to develop Volunteer Firefighter training needs.

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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

- Prepare for upcoming wildland season
- Replace number and test new and existing fire hose.
- Prepare for WSRB.
- Prepare for the upcoming EMS levy.
- Implement Capital Improvement projects- Bathrooms/ Painting Station 2.
- Participate in Spring/Summer Community Events.



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