

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

Wildfire risk has been an area of emphasis for Chelan County Fire District #3 for the last several years. We offer free home assessments, community chipping services and work closely with other local partner agencies to continue to educate the public on reducing the risk of loss from wildfire.



Before treatment – dense underbrush and closely spaced trees create dangerous ladder fuels.

After treatment – healthy trees spaced out and ladder fuels removed to create defensible space.



CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3 CREATES DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

Chelan County Fire District #3 was awarded a grant through the International Association of Fire Chief's "Ready, Set, Go!" program. This program seeks to empower fire departments to engage the residents they serve in wildland fire community risk reduction by providing grant opportunities and educational resources.

Rattlesnake Hill, located directly behind Cascade High School, was selected as an important place to create defensible space. In the event of a major wildfire, this structure could be used to shelter evacuated residents, is an important community facility, and the treatment area sees regular foot traffic. Treating this area provided a highly visible sample of what wildland urban interface property should look like as well as provided much needed fuels reduction on a community asset.

“Individual property owner’s efforts in creating defensible space for their homes is a critical component in our ability to better protect it.”

Chief Kelly O’Brien

WHAT WAS THE GAME PLAN?

We focused on the key elements of defensible space:

- Increase crown separation by spacing trees 18’ apart at treetops
- Removal of ladder fuels where they pose the potential for allowing fire to move into the crown
- Space between shrubs and trees to eliminate continuous ground fuels
- Removal of any dead trees and branches



BEFORE: The dense stand of trees near this building creates a high-risk fire hazard. Flames on the ground could easily travel up to the tree canopy making fire and its embers more intense.



AFTER: A park-like aesthetic, with proper tree spacing, branches limbed up, and ladder fuels removed, assists in keeping fire on the ground with lower intensity should it occur.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

In addition to providing grant funds for fuels reduction labor costs on the Rattlesnake Hill project, the Ready, Set, Go! Program also assisted with creating a “Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide.” This guide contains helpful information for residents to evaluate their property and begin to take important steps to create defensible space. It also includes other emergency readiness checklists and survival tips. Stop by Fire Station #3 and pick one up today!

There are a lot of agencies working in the area of fuels reduction with many resources! Here are some partner agencies who can provide more information about wildfire, grant programs, and community education materials:

Chelan County Fire District #3
 Chumstick Stewardship Wildfire Coalition
 Cascadia Conservation District
 WA. Dept of Natural Resources
 IAFC Ready, Set, Go!

www.chelanfd3.org

www.chumstickcoalition.org

www.cascadiacd.org

www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/wildfire/wildfire-preparedness

www.wildlandfirersg.org

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