



Winter 2025 Newsletter

1st Quarter Update from the Chief

Well, 2024 was a heck of a year. Many things were done and many goals were achieved.

West Mason Fire was dispatched to 1,004 incidents. That is a new record. We've made large strides this past year to accommodate this. The planning of our future is well underway.

West Mason hosted and facilitated a Firefighter Recruit Academy for 22 new recruits, 11 of which were from West Mason. This makes it the largest influx of trained volunteers that anyone can remember. To make it even cooler, six of those are moving into Emergency Medical Training to be EMTs for our district.

With the support of the taxpayers, we have been able to hire three full time firefighter/EMTs. The main purpose of these employees is to staff the ambulance, with a secondary job of making it easy and fun to volunteer here.

Goals for the district in 2025:

- Increase full time staffing to 6.
 - This will allow for consistent career firefighter coverage.
- Start the replacement of our Fire Engines.
 - 3 out of our 4 are 30 years old and no longer meet standards.
- Increase our number of Firefighter 2 certifications.
 - Journeyman level firefighter.
- Expand our headquarters station.
 - We are no longer able to hold our volunteer and administrative functions in the current building.
 - Our building no longer meets the requirements of the current fire code.
- Replace the chassis on our 1991 wildland engine.
 - As we get younger and younger, only a few of our people can drive a manual transmission.

As the Fire Chief, I am proud of all my employees and volunteers with what they continue to do. I am also eternally grateful for the support that I have received from the community.

There is so much more to say, but I'm running out of space.

Matthew N Welander
Fire Chief, West Mason Fire

The West County Recruit Academy ended in December with Fire Fighter 1 certification. Some of these same individuals are back to class getting their EMT certification that just started in January.



The 10 West Mason Fire volunteers who went through academy.

Happy New Year!

As we leave 2024 behind, I want to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of our Fire District and share our goals for the future.

In 2024, we successfully passed our EMS Levy, a crucial step in ensuring the continued operation of our services and keeping West Mason safe. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the registered voters who supported this effort, ensuring that our emergency medical services are well-funded for the years to come. To improve our service, we added three paid firefighter/EMTs, ensuring 24-hour staffing, with support from our dedicated volunteers. West Mason Fire responded to over 1,000 calls in 2024, the highest number in our history.

Looking ahead to 2025, we've submitted a request for State Capital Budget Funds to modernize our headquarters. This upgrade will better support our paid staff, administrative operations, and training efforts. With the support of our legislative representatives, we are optimistic about securing the necessary funding. Additionally, we aim to add three more paid firefighter/EMTs to ensure full EMS crew coverage around the clock.

Despite the challenges of inflation, which has eroded the value of our fire levy, we will ask voters to approve the restoration of our levy to its previously approved rate of \$1.30 per \$1,000. This will help us keep pace with the rising

costs of living and continue providing essential services to our community.

I am excited to serve the West Mason Fire District in the coming year and help us continue moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chief Welander or I. Stay safe this winter!

Best regards,

Commissioner Trevor Severance
Chairman

Welcome!

Please help us welcome our three new employees:
Charlotte Smith, Laila Hanson and Samantha Glover!



From left to right: Laila Hanson, Samantha Glover, and Charlotte Smith.



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