



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

FEMA SAFER Grant Award

Columbia River Fire & Rescue has been awarded a FEMA Staffing For Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant also known as SAFER for \$592,000 over the next 4 years beginning in December of this year. Grant funds will be used to enhance the volunteer program for the fire district providing incentives for volunteer firefighters.

Because this grant goes towards volunteer recruitment and retention there is no match to the fire district. The funds received will enhance the current programs and budget in place. Volunteer program incentives include a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP), education reimbursements for tuition and fees for student firefighters, an LED reader board for the St. Helens Station, recruitment materials and funding for the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator.

The application process for these grants is competitive and takes significant time and effort to work thru the process to effectively complete the application justifying the project. The district applied for the grant during the open application process in March 2018. There were 300 grants available for fire districts across the country from FEMA for the SAFER program with about \$350 million in funds available.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards.

<https://www.fema.gov/staffing-adequate-fire-emergency-response-grants>

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