



# WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

10828 Littlerock Rd SW Olympia WA 98512  
Phone 360.352.1614 Fax 360.352.1696

---

Date: March 1, 2023  
Contact: Rob Smith, Fire Chief (360) 352-1614 [robbie.smith@wtrfa.org](mailto:robbie.smith@wtrfa.org)

## ***ALBANY FIRE STATION REOPEN NOTICE***

West Thurston Regional Fire Authority (WTRFA) thanks Chairman Dustin Klatush, the Business Committee of the Chehalis Tribe and all Chehalis Tribe members for their continued partnership in fire and life safety for all the areas served by WTRFA. While our partnership spans many decades, WTRFA and the Chehalis tribal representatives took the opportunity recently to engage in building our relationship to the next level. This was accomplished by the warm welcome of the Tribe to discuss what is best for the Tribe's Reservation, trust lands and visitors to the community, and to discuss how to achieve an agreement on an emergency service contract that supports this shared goal. Through good-faith negotiations, we are proud to announce we achieved our collective goals and have reached an agreement that allows for reopening and operating our Albany Street Fire Station. The station is now open and providing services.

As an emergency service provider, WTRFA wants to ensure the best and most timely service delivery to the community members and visitors that we can within our means.

Looking into the future, the strong partnership developed between WTRFA, and the Chehalis Tribe will enhance our ability to address some of the funding challenges we are experiencing as a result of recent levy failures in 2022. Our West Thurston Board of Commissioners are currently considering a Levy Lid Lift on the August 2023 primary ballot to address this funding issue. A levy lid lift will resolve some funding challenges we face in the short term by simply maintaining current staffing and capabilities as they exist. To further address this challenge, the District is committed to building up its volunteer program to supplement our workforce through incentives, stipends, and other value-added benefits.

We are excited to continue our partnership with the Chehalis Tribe and welcome their continued support and engagement in the coming years!