

Laura Simmons

FIRE CHIEF

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SUMMARY

Fire Chief with 15 years in the fire service and 4 years leading a 6-station combination department of 140 career and volunteer members. Directs strategic planning, budget management, emergency management and labor relations, and reports to the city manager and council. Raised the ISO rating from Class 4 to Class 3 and completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

SKILLS

Other Skills: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Budget Management, Emergency Management, Labor Relations, ISO Public Protection Classification, Fire Prevention, Public Education, Volunteer Recruitment, Mutual Aid

EXPERIENCE

Fire Chief 09/2022 - Present
Latah Creek Fire & Rescue Spokane, WA

Chief of a 6-station combination department serving 75,000 residents.

- Lead **140** career and volunteer members and a \$22M budget, reporting to the city manager and council.
- Raised the ISO Public Protection Classification from Class 4 to Class 3 in 2024, lowering insurance costs.
- Secured voter approval of a levy lid lift at 61%, funding 12 new firefighter positions.
- Developed a 5-year strategic plan with council, union and community input, tracking 24 public measures.
- Coordinate emergency management with county partners, including 2 wildfire evacuations covering 3,000 homes.

Deputy Fire Chief 03/2018 - 08/2022
Cascade Plains Fire District Cheney, WA

Operations and training chief for a 4-station combination district.

- Directed operations and training for 4 stations and 85 members, including 40 volunteers.
- Cut average response time from 8:40 to **7:15** by redrawing station response zones with dispatch.
- Launched a volunteer recruitment program that added 35 members in 3 years.

Fire Captain 06/2011 - 02/2018
Cascade Plains Fire District Cheney, WA

Joined as firefighter/EMT in 2011 and promoted to captain in 2015.

- Led a 4-person engine crew on 1,900 calls a year, including wildland interface fires.
- Built the district's first fire prevention and public education program, reaching **4,000** students a year.
- Coordinated mutual aid deployments to 3 state mobilization wildfires as a strike team member.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration 06/2019
Eastern Washington University Cheney, WA
Public Administration

CERTIFICATES

Executive Fire Officer Program 07/2021
National Fire Academy, U.S. Fire Administration

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) 11/2022
Center for Public Safety Excellence