



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

South Bay Fire Department News

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FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF BRIAN VANCAMP

The past several months have been both a poignant time for our members and one of ground-breaking success in many areas. This *Newsletter* will enlighten you on most of these events. As in past articles in the "Chief's Corner," I would like to remind you that we are a volunteer fire department and are always looking for new willing and able members. I invite you to take a look at our website at SouthBayFire.com to learn more about our programs and members.

WELCOME ASSISTANT CHIEF BRANDON LEMAY

I'd like to introduce you to our new Training & Safety Assistant Chief, Brandon LeMay. Brandon was selected as a result of a nationwide search and joined the Department in October of 2010. Brandon hit the ground running focusing on volunteer recruitment, initial training, safety and service competency—changes made to senior staff roles that were implemented in early 2011.



Training & Safety Assistant Chief
Brandon LeMay

Brandon has been in the fire service since 1996. Prior to his employment with SBF, he was a Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal with the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office. Brandon, his wife Belle and their son Dylan, live in Lacey. Welcome Brandon!

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December 2010, the Board of Fire Commissioners adopted the District's 2011-2013 Business Plan. Eight Goals were established, and various Objectives have been, or are being, developed to accomplish these strategic initiatives. The eight Goals are:

- 1) Implement improved service response for the north-end of the District;
- 2) Identify opportunities to collaborate with North Olympia Fire District 7;
- 3) Ensure we have a full complement of qualified volunteers available to respond;
- 4) Strengthen administrative functions of the District;
- 5) Improve the relationships and communications of the Board and Executive Team;
- 6) Develop a plan for the District Training Facility;
- 7) Strengthen our productive relationship with our community; and
- 8) Strengthen our cultural focus on fiscal accountability and operational efficiency.

Work has already begun on most of the Goals, especially with volunteer staffing programs and administrative initiatives. The *District Training Facility Goal* is a carry-over of a multi-year plan to convert the old main firestation site (on South Bay Road) into a location to support ongoing training for our members. Work on this project will begin after completion of the proposed new north-end firestation.

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FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

NEW NORTH-END FIRESTATION PROJECT

I have written in past issues of the *Newsletter* about our plans for a new firestation on Johnson Point that will replace two existing, non-staffed, sub-stations. The project has been in planning for several years. After an extensive community risk assessment in 2007, we identified certain areas within the District that were not receiving adequate levels of service, primarily due to longer response times. Current response times to the Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas are 10 to 12 minutes. With a new staffed firestation, response times can be reduced to 6 to 7 minutes. In the case of a cardiac arrest patient or a fire, the 4 to 6 minute difference is crucial in saving a life or a home.

Several options were developed and evaluated that would mitigate this imbalance of service. Initial estimates of costs for the options were reviewed and a long-term budget established, that included gradual contributions from regular operating revenues.

In 2009, land was purchased at a strategic location for a new fire station with the intention to replace our two existing, non-staffed sub-stations. At about the same time, the District engaged the firm URS to provide design and construction services. In January 2010, a group of over 30 citizens participated in a task force that examined options for a new firestation and provided some recommendations. Among those suggestions was to build a



Proposed new fire station

5,600 square foot firestation that would house firefighter-EMTs, reducing response times in the area.

An additional recommendation was to get voter approval for the firestation. The District is planning to place a bond issue on the November 8th General Election ballot to help pay for the new firestation. The bond would provide \$1.2 million of the total project cost of \$2.5 million.

The District will host two informative workshops on the proposed project on August 22 and October 4, 2011, beginning at 6:00 pm. Both will be held at our main station located at 3506 Shincke Rd NE. I invite you to attend one or both of these workshops to

learn more details about this project and to have answers to any questions you may have. More details are posted on our website. You can also call (360) 491-5320 or email me with your specific questions at vancamp@southbayfire.com.

“Current response times to the Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas are 10 to 12 minutes.

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PRUDENT MANAGERS OF YOUR FIRE DISTRICT TAX DOLLARS

I don't need to explain the concern we all have about the current state of affairs in the local, state, national and world economy. There are no sectors in our society that have been insulated from its effects. As a government agency dependent on property tax for its revenue, the District is fully aware of its current and future impacts on revenues and expenses.

For 2011, the District has held the line on its budget with sufficient funding to continue the *District Strategic Plan* operational programs (mentioned on page 1). These programs include our internship program, additional volunteer staffing and improved volunteer shift-based training. Operational funding for the new north-end firestation is still in place, with revenues saved from previous years' budgets. As in the past, we will continue to be prudent managers of your fire district tax dollars.



**Residential outdoor burning
is not permitted
from July 15 through October 15**

CLEAN AIR MEASURES



The District received approval in the fall of 2010 for funding to install new emission control devices to its diesel powered apparatus. Chief Kessel is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology in a fully funded project where the exhaust systems of District apparatus will be fitted with special equipment to reduce noxious gases. The District is only one of a few of the public agencies chosen to participate in this program.

OPEN BURNING PERMITS

Residential outdoor burning permits expire each year on July 14 and a new permit is required for the next burning season beginning October 16.

You can obtain a residential outdoor burning permit at our main fire station at 3506 Shincke Road NE or download one at home from our web site www.southbayfire.com

Safe burning practices and regulations can be found on the back of the burning permit as well as a list of prohibited burning materials.

For alternatives to burning contact Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (orca) (360) 586-1044 or visit www.ORCAA.org Other alternatives to burning can also be found at the Thurston County Water & Waste Management site www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER

"No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers." Ronald Reagan

The South Bay Fire Department is looking for energetic and determined individuals to join our team and support our community.



Our Department provides emergency response and public service to the South Bay area. We are currently accepting applications for entry level firefighter and emergency medical technicians. Some of our members are actively pursuing fire service careers and are gaining training and experience as a volunteer. Most of our members have been here for many years and all have a strong sense of pride and

honor as valued members of the South Bay Fire Department.

As an emergency responder we will train you to safely respond and engage in firefighting operations or provide emergency medical assistance and serve the community in a way that no other volunteer organization can offer.

In addition, we have dedicated Volunteer Receptionists who help in the office.

Volunteers are rewarded with the personal satisfaction of serving their community, saving a life or dwelling and serving a necessary purpose to the well-being of their fellow man.

Your dedication efforts don't go unnoticed. In addition to being respected and appreciated by the community, volunteers are also rewarded by our Department. We offer our volunteers a competitive array of financial incentives, educational and training opportunities, as well as insurance, retirement benefits and much more!

If you want to challenge yourself and be a part of something bigger while helping others in the community, fill out an application and get it to us! Feel free to ask for a station tour and meet current members to learn more.

To find out more about volunteering with the South Bay Fire Department, you can call us at (360) 491-5320 or visit us on the web: www.southbayfire.com or stop by and pick up an application at 3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506

BENEFITS

- ◆ Training (Fire fighter & EMS)
- ◆ Complete Uniforms & Bunker Gear
- ◆ Stipends
- ◆ Health & Wellness
- ◆ Pension Plan
- ◆ Accident Insurances
- ◆ Life Insurance
- ◆ Tuition Assistance
- ◆ Chaplain Services
- ◆ Employee Assistance Program
- ◆ Fire Fighter's Association
- ◆ Social & Recognition Events

MEMBER RECOGNITION!

NEWEST MEMBERS

We are proud to introduce our most recent members:



Dale Hayes



Kyle Iverson



Kerry O'Brien

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Each year our Department recognizes volunteer responders for their accomplishments in their respective departments. For 2010, James Poole was selected as Firefighter of the Year, Damian Longmire was selected as Officer of the Year, Robert Gormley was voted the Inspirational Award and Les Robinette voted 'Bulldog' of the year! There were two ten-year service awards: Brent McBride and Kirsten Olson. Congratulations!



James Poole



Damian Longmire



Robert Gormley



Les Robinette

Our Mission:

We are committed to serve our community with prompt, consistent and professional fire suppression, basic life support and rescue services.



If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know by giving us your name and email address at info@southbayfire.com

FREE INSTALLED SMOKE ALARMS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The South Bay Fire Department has been selected by Washington State Department of Health Injury & Violence Prevention Program to participate in the Fire Safe Families Project. This Project is funded by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health Injury Prevention Program. The project is intended to prevent fire-related injuries and deaths through installation of smoke alarms in homes that do not have adequate smoke alarm coverage.

Fires and burns are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States. In 2009, Washington State fire agencies reported 59 fire fatalities. Based on a five year average, approximately 5 people die in fires each month in Washington State. Over the past five years, 73% of the fire fatalities in Washington State occurred in residential properties. (Source: 2008 Fire in Washington, Prepared by Washington State Patrol Office of the State Fire marshal)

A working smoke alarm significantly reduces your risk of death or injury in fire. Smoke alarms provide early notification to the occupants that a fire is present. Deadly fires can strike at anytime of the day or night. Human factors play a role in the majority of these incidents. Some may not have heard the smoke alarm because they were sleeping. Others may have physical or mental disabilities or may have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Experts estimate that one in three homes have an inoperable smoke alarm. The two most common reasons for inoperable smoke alarms are: Disabling them to prevent nuisance alarms or neglecting to replace units that are past their 10-year service lives.

The South Bay Fire Department is offering our community members free smoke alarms with a focus on those who are *low income, senior citizens, or residing in mobile homes*. Fire Department personnel and volunteers will install the alarms. During the installation, they will provide fire prevention tips and help homeowners and residents with fire escape plans. Prevention is the best way to keep your home and your family safe from fire.

To apply for a free alarm, you can call our front office at (360) 491-5320; visit our web site at www.southbayfire.com or stop by our station at 3506 Shincke Road NE. We will take your information and schedule an appointment.



Student Fire Fighters

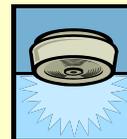
The top classes from each grade level were awarded their choice of either a pizza or ice cream party from the PTA. The top class for the school this year also won the top prize from the fire department. Mr. Macintosh's 6th grade class became real firefighters for a day, when each student put on firefighter bunker gear, grabbed the fire hose and put out a live fire in the parking lot of the school.

If you would like more information about any of South Bay Fire Department's Community Programs, please give us a call at (360) 491-5320.

SMOKE ALARM FACTS

How effective are smoke alarms?

Reports from the National Fire Protection Association show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke alarms.



When do I need to replace my smoke alarm?

Smoke alarms that are 10 years old are near the end of their service life and should be replaced.

My smoke alarms are wired into my electrical system. Do I need to replace them as often as battery-operated alarms?

Yes. Both the hard-wired and battery-operated alarms are equally affected by age.

How often should batteries be replaced?

Batteries should be checked regularly and replaced every 6 months.

How many smoke alarms should I have?

All but the smallest home or apartment needs more than one. The exact number depends on the number of levels in the home and the number of bedrooms.

In existing homes, the NFPA only requires a smoke alarm outside the bedroom area and one on each level of the home. If the bedrooms in a home are located in different areas, then each area should have its own smoke alarm. If a home is large, it is better to use more than one on each level. The closer the smoke alarm is to the fire source the faster it will work, so extra units give you more safety.

Are there places where I should not put a smoke alarm?

Smoke alarms are not designed to work in extreme heat or cold, or in areas where smoke and dust are common. They are not recommended for unheated attics or similar spaces. Smoke alarms should not be used in garages for two reasons. First, garages are usually not heated or cooled, and thus are sometimes above or below the temperature range that the unit was designed for. Second, the smoke from engine exhaust fumes will cause nuisance alarms and clog the smoke alarm.

Other areas of concern are the kitchen and bathrooms. A smoke alarm that is installed too close to cooking appliances or water may result in nuisance alarms.

BLAZING A TRAIL FOR LITERACY

This year, the South Bay Fire Department's "Blazing a Trail for Literacy" program teamed up with the South Bay Elementary PTA's BEAR Reading Program to promote reading at the school and provide increased incentives. The two week reading contest held in February and March, was for all students attending South Bay Elementary. Students recorded the number of minutes they read for the reading program and earned prizes. Additional recognition was awarded by our Department as well as Country Music vocal group, Gloriana.



Proud winners of the reading contest

SUMMER SAFETY FOR PET OWNERS

As summer arrives, families like to get outside and enjoy recreational activities – often with their pets. We'd like to remind you of potential summer dangers for pets and ways to prevent them.

HEAT STROKE



Cars heat up fast, even with the windows cracked. Even mild days when the sun is out can pose great danger. Driving around, parking and leaving your pet in the car for a few minutes can be deadly.

Pets who experience heat stroke can exhibit any of the following symptoms: body temperatures of 104-110 degrees, excessive panting, dark or bright red tongue and gums, staggering, stupor, seizures, bloody diarrhea or vomiting, coma and death.

If you suspect heat stroke in your pet, seek veterinary attention immediately! Use cool water, not ice water, to cool your pet. Very cold water will cause constriction of the blood vessels and impede cooling. Do not aid cooling below 103 F degrees - some animals can actually get hypothermic or too cold. Offer ice cubes for the animal to lick until you can reach your veterinarian. Just because your animal starts to cool down and appears OK, don't assume everything is fine. Internal organs can definitely be affected by the body temperature elevation. A veterinary exam with blood tests are needed to assess this.

WATER SAFETY

Not all dogs are excellent swimmers by nature, especially if your pet has underlying health problems, such as heart disease or obesity to contend with. Consider protecting your pet just as your human family ~ with a life

preserver. If your pet is knocked off of the boat (perhaps getting injured in the process), or is tired/cold from choppy water or sudden storm, a life jacket could be what saves your pet's life.

EXCESSIVE EXERCISE

Extended activities like jogging can also be dangerous this time of year. As the weather warms, humans wear less clothing and sweat more. Dogs are still wearing their winter coat and can only cool themselves by panting and a small amount of sweating through the foot pads. Many dogs, especially the athletic ones, will keep running, no matter what, to stay up with their owner. Change their routine to early morning or late evening to prevent heat stroke.

Consider your pet's **housing**. If they are kept outdoors, do they have shade and fresh water access at all times? Can their chain get stuck and prevent them from accessing the water and shade? If you live in a warm climate, it is a good idea to hose down the dog before work, at lunch or whenever you can to provide extra cooling (if your dog is not over heated in the first place).



ANTIFREEZE

With the warmer temperatures of summer, cars over heat and may leak antifreeze. This is the bright green liquid found oozing from that car with the engine fan on. Also, people change their antifreeze and may spill or leave unused antifreeze out where pets can access it. Antifreeze tastes sweet and is inviting to pets (and children). It is also extremely toxic in very small amounts. Call your veterinarian or physician immediately if any ingestion is suspected. A safe alternative to Ethylene Glycol antifreeze is available, it is called propylene glycol. It's slightly more expensive than regular antifreeze but could also be worth the piece of mind.

FIRE FIGHTER STAIR CLIMB

For the fifth year, members from South Bay have participated in the Fire Fighter Stair Climb event held on March 6th. Over 1,550 firefighters from 27 states, Canada and New Zealand competed in the world firefighter stair climbing championship. Firefighters raised over \$930,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

In total, firefighters ages 18 - 69 from a record 281 different fire departments strapped on fire fighting bunker gear and breathing apparatus weighing about 50 lbs. and sprint-climbed 788 feet in vertical elevation (1,311 stairs / 69 stories) from the Fifth Avenue lobby to the 73rd floor observation deck of the 76-story skyscraper known as the Columbia Center.

At 943 feet, about one-and-a-half times the height of Seattle's Space Needle, the Columbia Center is the tallest building on the West Coast and the 57th tallest building in the world.

Out of all the fire departments that sent members, South Bay ranked 13th in fundraising overall for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. A total of \$11,501 was raised for 2011. To date, over \$35,000 has been raised in the five years that members have been competing. The nineteen members that participated this year were Chris Bevan, Ben Dicke, Ethan Evans, Michael Fernstrom, Robert Gormley, Adam Jones, Chris LaDue, Kyle Landwehrle, Brent McBride, Ray Meyers, Sean Murphy, Chris Neuman, John Phillips, James Poole, Dan Pooley, Ashley Raben, Matt Richardson, Calder Russell, and Paul Tanghe.



South Bay Fire Stair Climb Participants

SOUTH BAY FIRE DEPT.
THURSTON COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT 8
3506 SHINCKE RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA 98506



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The South Bay News is an informational update for residents and taxpayers in the Thurston County Fire District 8. *Disclaimer:* This publication contains opinions and interpretations of various authors. South Bay Fire District 8 and its management do not make warranties with respect to accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this publication. Comments and concerns should be directed to:

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**PREVENT FIRES
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FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A Heart is in Your Hands

Be a part of our system.
Help someone in Cardiac Arrest.
Your help can save a life.



LEARN CPR

3 simple steps:

1. If the person is unresponsive, call 911.
2. Push and release on person's chest with your hands (hard and fast)
3. Keep pushing and releasing, don't stop.

When you begin CPR as soon as someone collapses, you double their chance of survival.

Make a Difference - Do CPR!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE—DO CPR

In a medical emergency when someone stops breathing, giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until emergency medical help arrives can mean the difference between life and death.

If you or someone you know would like to take a CPR course, free CPR classes are available through the South Bay Fire Department usually on Wednesday evenings. Classes are held 7 - 10 pm.

For specific dates, give us a call or visit our web site. To register for a class, please call Medic One at (360) 704-2780.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mark your calendars for the annual South Bay Firefighters' Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 9 am - 4 pm.

Each year our Association hosts a fun-filled Holiday Bazaar for community members, held at our main Station 81. Community members sell their crafts, hand-made treasures, holiday gift items and more! The Fire Fighter's Association will also host a snack bar and a bake sale. All proceeds from this fundraiser go back to the Association to host community outreach programs.