



# Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

## South Bay Fire Department News

3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506

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### FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF BRIAN VANCAMP

The past several months have been a very busy time for our members. Our call volume is up over 13% from last year, although a significant portion was related to January's snow-ice storm. We successfully avoided any fireworks-related fires; however, did have three fireworks-related injury calls. We've also been very busy on many business fronts and will report on these in this edition. As in all of my past articles in the "Chief's Corner," I would like to remind you that we are a volunteer fire department and are always on the look-out for new, willing and able members. I invite you to take a look at our website at [SouthBayFire.com](http://SouthBayFire.com) to learn more about our programs and members.



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### COMMUNITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE 2012

With the failure of the November 2011 bond levy ballot issue for a new north-end fire station, the Board of Fire Commissioners and District Staff asked for community volunteers and then convened a Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) to review options and solicit advice regarding service delivery in the District's north-end. The purpose of the Task Force was to "review alternative choices and options regarding the provision of response services to Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas and to seek input and recommendations regarding a preferred solution."

Desired outcomes for the process were:

- CATF members will have a good understanding of business options available to the District and the financial and service impacts on the community.
- CATF members will gain consensus as to the preferred option/strategy for Johnson Point and Marvin Road response service provision.

The Board's desire was that the CATF represent a cross-section of the community, including those who may have a special interest or "stake" in the services provided. Extensive effort was

made to invite volunteers to achieve a balanced membership from citizens throughout the District. Representation included participants from the 2010 CATF (who opted to continue with the 2012 CATF) and other interested community members within the District. Each voter precinct in the District was invited for potential membership; several neighbors near the 78<sup>th</sup> Ave NE site also participated as members. Thirty-eight citizens and three District volunteers agreed to serve on the task force. Four workshops were held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.

As a result of the workshops, there was super majority support for eventually constructing a new fire station on the site at 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with timing the project to a more favorable economic environment. After reviewing the significant costs to staff three stations and costs to upgrade the two sub-stations, the Task Force decision was made. After placing the new fire station in service, the two existing sub-stations (Johnson Point Road and Marvin Road) would both be closed, surplus and sold. A minority opinion held that the District continue to operate from the South Bay Road fire station only. Another minority opinion was that one or both current sub-stations could be modified to house on-duty responders.

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## FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

This report will be available for public review on the District's website after the Board officially accepts the report.

### PROPERTY VALUES AND DISTRICT REVENUE

As the 2012 CATF process was winding down, the District received information from the Thurston County Assessor about significant changes to property valuation estimates for 2013 and beyond. Over 94% of the District's operating funds are derived from real property tax. The District budget process includes estimating revenues for the following five-year period in order to plan for the future. Last year, it was estimated that there would be a three to four percent drop in property values from 2012 to 2013; however, the newest information is predicting a ten percent reduction. This is a change to planning assumptions, and the District is addressing this change in its current budgeting efforts.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET IN THE TIGHT ECONOMY

For 2012, the District has maintained its budget with sufficient funding to continue the District Strategic Plan driven operational programs. These programs include our internship program, additional volunteer, staffing and improved volunteer shift-based training. Funding for planning and permitting the new north-end fire station is still in place, with money saved from previous years' budgets (see below).

With the reduced revenues anticipated for 2013 and at least through 2017, the District is examining all its programs closely for costs and benefits. The budget process, normally begun in the early fall, is already fully underway with staff identifying program priorities, estimating fixed and variable costs, brain-storming innovations and alternatives and preparing for key public input and communications. Opportunities for citizen involvement will be scheduled this fall. As in the past, we will continue to be prudent managers of your fire district tax dollars.

### NEW NORTH-END FIRESTATION PROJECT

The District Strategic Plan-driven proposal to replace two existing sub-stations with a new, more centrally located fire station has focused for the past few months on an application for a *Special Use Permit*. County zoning codes require special occupancies such as fire stations to have specific review and approval in order to be located within the community. The District must prove that it will not negatively affect the natural and built environment of the neighborhood. The District has been working with the Thurston County Department of Resource Stewardship, the US Army Corps of Engineers and neighbors to identify issues, develop solutions and proceed through the lengthy and detailed permit process.

### EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

The District received a petition for representation for a proposed collective bargaining unit in May for its three Assistant Fire Chiefs and three Temporary-Intern-Trainee Firefighters. The process, governed by the Washington State Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), initially involved a review and hearing regarding the petition involving representatives of the District and the International Association of Fire Firefighters Local 2903, and will be followed up by a ruling by the PERC hearings examiner later this fall. The District currently has five full-time employees; three temporary fire fighter interns and sixty volunteers.

### DISTRICT RECEIVES ECOLOGY GRANT

Fire District 8, through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology, have retrofitted Engine 81 and Rescue 81 with technologies intended to substantially reduce or eliminate vehicles idling on scene. This technology is intended to eliminate diesel emissions and save significant fuel and maintenance costs. Engine 81 was fitted with a new Cummins generator which will be started and remain running while on an emergency scene. The generator will operate all the vehicles emergency scene lights and allows for the truck engine to be turned off, eliminating diesel emissions and saving on fuel and maintenance costs.

Rescue 81 was fitted with a different system but the same principle applies. When the vehicle arrives on scene we are able to shut down the engine and maintain the use of all emergency scene lighting. Rescue 81 is the District's third vehicle to be fitted with this type of system.

### 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.



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

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](http://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) 539-7610 or visit [www.ORCAA.org](http://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](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm)

## SOUTH BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR 2012

The South Bay Fire Department is proud to partner with the South Bay Elementary School. Here is a rundown of activities and events that we've taken part in over the past year:

### MARCH 2012- BLAZING A TRAIL LITERACY PROGRAM

**S**outh Bay Fire Department's "Blazing a Trail for Literacy Program" joined forces with the South Bay Elementary PTA for our third year, to promote early childhood literacy. For two weeks, all 700 students competed in a reading contest with prize incentives to read the most amount of minutes.

Our Department awarded the top readers rides to school on a fire engine and literacy excellence awards from the fire chief. The top class got to be firefighters for a day, donning gear and racing to complete various firefighter obstacles including dousing a firefighter (*thanks to Jeff Beaulieu for stepping up*).

The SBFD also teamed up with a few celebrities to donate to the "Blazing a Trail for Literacy" program. Brad Paisley, The Band Perry, Scotty McCreery, and Gloriana all donated autographed 8x10's and CD's to the top readers. Celebrities also chose their favorite book and wrote to the students of South Bay about the importance of literacy and following your dreams. Photos of the celebrity with the book were then placed inside the book and donated to the school library for students to check out and read.



Master stream of water being sprayed on students during the Field Day event.

Next school year, we look forward to teaming up to promote early childhood literacy with Carrie Underwood, Justin Bieber, 2012 Top 10 American Idols and Brad Paisley for the second year in a row, and Gloriana for the fourth year in a row.

### END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

In April, nine Department members joined in the 73rd annual South Bay PTA Fun Fair "Treasure Island" celebration. Fire engines were put on display for the community to enjoy. Proceeds from the Fun Fair went towards supporting the South Bay PTA's projects and programs that benefit all students at South Bay Elementary.

In June, All South Bay Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Graders attempted to create a device that could keep a raw chicken egg intact when dropped or thrown from a certain height. District members were on hand to provide height and assist in the attempt to "destroy dreams" (*as some students put it*) as members got atop of the play shed and tossed most of the egg carriers to their doom.

For the third year, the Department sponsored a station at the PTA's Field Day event. Students took part in a water race to grab a charged wildland hose, race 50 meters and try to knock off a football lodged in a cone. The event quickly turned into a water battle among students. Also, every hour the master stream would be shot into the air drenching all students in its path. Disclaimer: All students were told to bring an extra set of clothes multiple times in days leading up to the event by the principle and teachers.

## MEMBER RECOGNITION!

**O**n June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Thurston Fire & Rescue Training Consortium and Thurston County Medic One System celebrated the graduation of Firefighter and EMT students at the Olympia HS auditorium. District members graduating from the EMT class included: Alex Bates, Jeff Beaulieu, Jake Hunter, and Jacob Zvirzdys. A special congratulations to Alex Bates as he was selected as the EMT outstanding class graduate and was the class spokesperson. Our newest members graduating from the Fire Academy included: Chris Edwards, Zachary Skorna, Danny Tran, and Adam Walker.

An inspiring speech was given by Commissioner Small who was the ceremony keynote speaker during the proceedings. Commissioner Small reminds all responders that we serve our communities by helping them to be safe and by making them feel safe.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



L to R back row - Chief VanCamp; Jacob Zvirzdys; Jake Hunter, Commissioner Small; Christopher Edwards; Zach Skorna; Chief LeMay; Commissioner Getchman.  
Front - Jeff Beaulieu; Alex Bates; Adam Walker & Danny Tran

## GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

**O**ur Department is proud to have over 60 dedicated volunteer members. We would like to introduce members to the community as part of an on-going section in this newsletter. We are proud to interview and acquaint you with Captain Damian Longmire.

**How long have you been a Volunteer with the Department?** I began volunteering with South Bay in August 2008 (4 years), but prior to that I volunteered for 14 years with South Pierce Fire & Rescue.

**You are both a Captain and an acting Battalion Chief. What is unique about these roles?** It is rare to find a Volunteer Battalion Chief – and it is cool that I am able to fill that unique role when asked. As a Captain at South Bay I work with a super team of motivated and excited Firefighters and EMT's. That isn't really unique here at South Bay, it's the standard, as it should be.

**What do you do for a career when you are not volunteering?**

Since 1999, I've worked at St. Peter Hospital in the facilities maintenance department. I have an HVAC-R background and degree and I recently became certified as an aquatic facility operator.

**How has your role as a professional facilities maintenance technician helped you with your position as a Captain or Battalion Chief?** My background and experience in building construction and knowledge of internal systems has helped me to understand buildings and structures inside and out which has been useful when leading my crew into a burning building or deciding not to.

**Why did you become a volunteer with the South Bay Fire Department and what has kept you in the fire service so long?** I was raised in the fire service. My father was a volunteer Fire Fighter for 25 years and a Fire Chief for 6 years. I've always wanted to volunteer and when I moved to the Olympia area, I did research on volunteer departments and chose South Bay for its

reputation.

**With all your years of experience, do you have any advice for new volunteer members?** My advice is to listen to their leaders, teachers, and mentors. Volunteering is a great first step in receiving training and experience prior to pursuing the fire service as a career as many new members are doing today.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** I worked for 15 years, starting in high school, with the Thurston County Parks & Recreation Department helping special needs children and adults. I spent my vacation time as a summer camp counselor. I also helped with day trips and recreation events on nights and weekends.

**What is most rewarding about your role in the Department?** I enjoy it all very much. I try to be involved in numerous aspects of department operations. Most of all for me it is the smiles on my crews faces, the light turning on in my students eyes, and providing quality assistance to our neighbors whenever and however they need it.

**Thank you for your interview. Do you have any closing comments you would like to share?** I am a strong supporter of volunteering in the Fire Service. It is a cool thing to be a part of and to make a difference. When our neighbors call 9-1-1, we are always there to help them!



Captain & Battalion Chief  
Damian Longmire

### SB VOLUNTEER FIRE OFFICER MAKES STATE HISTORY

**F**ire Captain Damian Longmire with the South Bay Fire Department (Thurston Fire District 8), has made Fire service history in Washington State. Damian has become the first ever volunteer firefighter in the State to have earned the prestigious *Hazard Zone Incident Commander* certification known as the "Blue Card" certification. Blue Card training and certification is a program that allows emergency responders to demonstrate their skills and competence managing emergencies as the Incident Commander. To become Blue Card Certified, Damian had to complete over 50 hours of pre-requisite online training modules before conducting and passing an additional three full days of practical testing. Achieving this level is a monumental career bench-mark for any emergency service member, career or volunteer. The South Bay Fire Department is very proud have Washington State's first ever, volunteer, Blue Card Certified, Incident Commander as one of its own Department Officers!

#### FREE CPR CLASSES

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.

#### FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Stop by our Station 8-1 any time and receive a blood pressure check.

## SOUTH BAY FD VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else." ~ Benjamin Franklin

### WHAT IT TAKES FOR A CITIZEN TO BECOME ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.

One of the most frequently asked questions our Department receives from the public is, "How does someone become a volunteer Firefighter/EMT?"

About 25 years ago, becoming a volunteer firefighter often meant making friends with existing volunteers, expressing an interest and getting issued whatever size of boots and jacket was available. In more modern times, the volunteer firefighter recruitment and selection process has become far more elaborate and stringent.

The South Bay FD accepts applications 365 days a year; however, the selections process only takes place twice a year (January and July). On average, the Department receives about 20 applications per recruitment cycle (every six months). The Department sits at its maximum capacity of 60 volunteers; therefore, recruitment and new member selection is entirely based on attrition. Volunteers resign and move on for a variety of reasons such as work or family obligations to moving on to career fire department positions. On average, each six month cycle the Department has four vacancies to fill in order to succeed the members who have moved on.

The submitted applications are reviewed for accuracy and completeness before the driving record reviews are completed. All applicants who are deemed eligible are invited to move forward in the selection process where they are required to take a written examination. Candidates who pass the written test with an 80% or better move on to take the physical agility test consisting of a timed firefighter challenge course. Those who pass the physical agility test receive a criminal background check and are scheduled for an interview. Offers for membership are made based on the number of vacancies and only to the most successful of the applicant pool.

After Department in-processing and orientation, the new recruit members are scheduled to attend the nearly 200-hour Fire Academy. After graduating the four month academy, recruits are assigned to a shift where they have now earned the title "Probie," (probationary member). During their six months of probation, they learn about the Department, the district, the community and emergency response operations. Once a Probie has completed their probation, most members complete the nearly 200-hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Academy. Approximately 75% of our volunteers are Firefighter and EMT certified responders.

After the initial Fire and EMS training, members are required to continue ongoing education and training to maintain and improve their skills.

If you think that you or anyone you know is willing, dedicated and capable of completing all these requirements—please apply to be our newest volunteer! Find our website [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com) or stop in to talk with us about the details of the program.

Brandon LeMay, Assistant Chief Training & Safety

### YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER

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

*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.*

*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](http://www.southbayfire.com)*



#### Benefits

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

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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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## HELP PREVENT PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

**T**here's a whooping cough epidemic in our state right now, and more people are sick with whooping cough than usual. Since late 2011, reported cases have increased.

Whooping cough (also known as Pertussis) is a highly contagious illness caused by bacteria that spreads easily by coughing and sneezing. It mainly affects the respiratory system and can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death.

People of all ages can get whooping cough. Whooping cough is very serious, especially for babies and young kids. The symptoms differ depending on age. Babies and young kids can have severe coughing spells that make it hard to eat, drink, breathe, or sleep. The cough is often followed by a "whooping" sound when breathing in. Older kids, teens and adults may have a bad cough, a runny nose, and a fever. Symptoms usually start 5 to 21 days (average 7 to 10 days) after exposure.

Using good health habits help slow the spread of whooping cough — wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home when you're sick, but the best protection against whooping cough is vaccination. Whooping cough vaccines are recommended for all kids and adults. Kids under seven should get a series of five TDaP vaccines. Kids aged 7 to 10 years who aren't fully vaccinated against whooping cough and everyone aged 11 and older should get a whooping cough booster.

**For more information about whooping cough and locations for the vaccine visit:**

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/pertussis/index.html> and <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/vaccines.html>



*Our Mission:*

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