



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News

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WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



Chief Brian VanCamp

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners and all members of South Bay Fire District 8, I would like to say thank you to the voters in our community for approving Proposition 1. The revenue provided by this measure will allow us to begin building adequate staffing to provide consistent round-the-clock response from both our South Bay and North Olympia firestations. All of this is a key part of the District's ongoing five-year service plan to improve our average response time and increase average on-scene staffing.

The current five-year plan envisions increasing staffing from 18 career responders to 28 by 2027 while maintaining a target level of 25 volunteer responders. In addition, we will continue to work on a program for resident responders to staff our Johnson Point sub-station as much as possible to reduce response times in that area. The long-term plan is to eventually relocate the South Bay fire station further north to a district-owned property on 63rd Ave NE. This move aims to provide better coverage for the east side of the District.

While this relocation is still several years away, consistently staffing both of our primary fire stations will enable us to move forward with planning and improve service in the meantime.

Thank you again!
Chief Brian VanCamp

JOIN US!

Join us for our monthly Board of Fire Commissioner meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 pm. These are held at our South Bay Station 8-1. We also offer meetings virtually. See our website for the link. www.southbayfire.com

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SANTA VISITS SOUTH BAY AND NORTH OLYMPIA COMMUNITIES!

On the evening of December 6th, 2024, the South Bay Fire Department held its third annual 'Santa Run,' and it was a resounding success! Santa Claus delighted residents of the South Bay and North Olympia communities, arriving on our antique fire engine. Along with his elves, Santa met with children and handed out candy canes, spreading holiday cheer.

Santa partnered with the Thurston County Food Bank, and his busy crew of 15 included career and volunteer firefighters, food bank volunteers, a fire commissioner, and some family members.

Santa's route covered approximately 6 miles, visiting neighborhoods such as Boston Harbor Community, Seashore Villa, Eagle Drive, Forest Park, Hawley Hills, and Deerfield Park. The event successfully collected two pallets of food, several winter coats, and cash donations for the Thurston County Food Bank.

The following day, the department hosted a 'Santa Visit' event at South Bay Station 8-1. This gave children another chance to meet Santa if they missed him during the Santa Run. The event featured games and crafts for the little ones, adding to the festive holiday spirit.

We look forward to continuing these valuable community events in the future.



Santa and his Elves



Volunteer Elves & Santa

FREE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

CPR Training

Compression only CPR training is offered monthly and held at our South Bay Station 8-1. Dates are listed on our website. Sign-up is required through Medic One. Call 360-704-2790 to sign up.

Blood Pressure Checks

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

Home Address Markers

We can't help you if we can't find you. If you need a free home address marker, please call us or order one on our website.

www.southbayfire.com



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A VOLUNTEER EMT WITH THE SOUTH BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT?

We are seeking highly motivated and competent individuals who have a strong desire to serve others in their times of greatest need. Our volunteer program encourages local citizens to get involved with the Fire Department, with the mission of protecting the lives and property of our neighborhood families.

We are currently on-boarding members to become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Since over 75% of our calls are medical emergencies, we focus on recruiting EMTs. All training and certifications are provided free of charge and are designed to equip you with real-world skills and knowledge for emergency response. This is one of the most rewarding, exciting, and challenging ways to volunteer and support your community!

We are looking for dedicated, responsible, and ambitious volunteers who are ready to make a difference. If you are interested in learning more about our department and becoming a volunteer, visit www.southbayfire.com/volunteer. You can also schedule a station tour or a ride-along by contacting jnotarianni@southbayfire.com.

South Bay Fire Dept. News

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HEROIC RESCUE AT NORTH OLYMPIA STATION 8-3

In late October, while tending to tasks, the on-duty crew at the North Olympia Station 8-3 was approached by a concerned resident with his Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Rocky. Rocky had a tennis ball lodged in his throat.

Lieutenant Chris LaDue, Firefighter Bryce Gibler, and Firefighter James Poole quickly assessed Rocky in the station's front parking lot. They saw the tennis ball stuck at the back of his throat, causing a visible bulge. Rocky was struggling to breathe and trying to cough the ball up, but his jaw locked, preventing any space for air.

Firefighter Gibler first attempted the Heimlich maneuver without success. With the South Bay Vet closed and other emergency options several minutes away, Firefighter Gibler called Olympia Pet Emergency for guidance. They advised flipping Rocky onto his back and pushing the ball towards his head with firm pressure.

Despite their efforts, Rocky resisted and eventually fell unconscious. The crew then placed him on his back again, applied firm pressure on the tennis ball, and managed to decompress it enough to remove it. They used an oxygen bag to deliver high-flow O₂ to Rocky, who regained consciousness within 30 seconds. Two minutes later, Rocky was up and jumped into his family's car.

The family took Rocky to their local vet, who confirmed he was perfectly fine. They expressed their immense gratitude for the crew's extraordinary efforts.

This heroic act saved a life and brought joy to Boston Harbor residents, knowing Station 83 was ready when needed most. Congratulations to the resourceful Team! Their actions made a difference that will never be forgotten.



Lt. LaDue, Rocky and FF Gibler

