



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

South Bay Fire Department News

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WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM

SUMMER 2016

CHIEF'S CORNER

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Chief Brian VanCamp

With the voter approved merger with North Olympia Fire District 7 and implementation of a five-member Board of Fire Commissioners behind us, we have been very busy here at the fire department and are continuing post-merger adjustments to the organization in an effort to improve our service to the community and realize economies of scale. After the first full year of being a merged fire district, we are evaluating any projected efficiencies (that were outlined in our *Emergency Services Integration Plan* or "ESIP") and operational improvements (staffing at both the South Bay and North Olympia firestations).

I would like to remind you that we depend heavily on volunteers and are always looking for new willing and able members, either for our incident readiness and response program, at our front desk or for our Citizen Advisory Team. I invite you to take a look at our website at SouthBayFire.com to learn a bit more about our programs and members.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

One of the items included in the *ESIP* is to address the Board of Fire Commissioners membership. After the merger took effect in January of 2015, the Board consisted of three commissioner from each of the two pre-merger fire districts. Based on Washington Statutory Law, the number of commissioners on the Board would be reduced over time with attrition back down to three members. The *ESIP* called for voter approval of a new five-member board.

During the November 2015 General Election, voters approved Proposition 1 which authorized the District to have a five-member Board. The cycle for elections for fire district board members coincided with the proposition election, and as a result, Commissioner Rich Gleckler (from FD7) was re-elected as a District Board member. Commissioner Art Getchman (from FD8) decided to not run for re-election and retired after 36 years of service. This resulted in the new five-member Board: Commissioners Rich Gleckler, Mike Berman, Rich Small, Milt Harper and Tom Engle. Commissioner Harper was voted as Chair for 2016 and Commissioner Engle as Vice-Chair.

FUTURE INTENTIONS

In February and March, the Board, citizens on the Citizens' Advisory Team, staff members and I reviewed the current District Mission, Vision and Goals (adopted in 2007) to see how they related to our current post-merger status as an organization. We also reviewed the business functions and operations, examined organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats ("SWOT") and engaged in a discussion about the important work the Board predicted for 2016 and beyond. From that work, a revised Mission and Vision statement and five goals were proposed. Copies of these proposals can be found on the District's website.

One of the primary goals being developed is targeted staffing. I have recommended that we plan for long-term future staffing at three firestations (North Olympia, South Bay and a central location in the Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas) round-the-clock with career during daytime hours and volunteers during nights and weekends, with a minimum of two qualified responders to staff an engine or an aid car, and one on-duty chief officer (Battalion Chief) to provide overall shift and incident management. If indicated by growth in emergency medical service incidents, an additional two responder crew would staff an additional aid car at the South Bay firestation. Obviously, it will take time and money to progress to these levels of staffing from where we are today.

The Board is engaged in a process wherein stakeholders, both within the organization and in the community, would have an opportunity to learn about these proposals and provide commentary and/or input. Being that these are very important steps for the District, I urge you to take a look at the planning documents when drafts are completed and "published" (i.e. on the District website, also available as printed copies) and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to provide input.

OPERATIONS

The District has both career and volunteer staffing for its incident readiness and response program. Night and weekend coverage is provided by our volunteers using a nine-shift rotation system augmented by on-call volunteers. Each shift has a volunteer officer leading two to three emergency responders (Firefighter, EMT or Firefighter-EMT); who are based at the South Bay and the North Olympia Firestations. We are working on efforts to staff the firestation at Johnson Point, an interim

measure to improve service at the north end of the District. A volunteer battalion chief provides oversight and management for each shift.

Daytime (Monday through Friday, 6 am to 6 pm) incident readiness and response coverage is primarily provided by career staff. Three full-time career Lieutenants and three full-time career Firefighters are assigned to day-shift staffing at the South Bay and North Olympia firestations. The three Assistant Fire Chiefs, also full-time career responders, provide support and management to the program. These members are represented by the International Association of Firefighters Local 2903.



In view of staffing demands for multi-firestation deployment, District staff has stepped-up recruiting efforts to bolster the volunteer roster. (See page 2 for more.) During the last recruitment process, twenty new recruits were selected to participate in firefighter and emergency medical training, adding to the volunteer staff roster for night and weekend shifts. This is truly a challenge as the demands on a volunteer emergency responder are significant, and the competition for time from potential candidates is great.

ECONOMIES OF SCALE

As part of the *ESIP* implementation, District staff incorporated organizational changes which were intended to reduce costs and increase efficiencies when possible. One means of demonstrating this is based on 2015 budget and expenditure results. After a detailed review of 2013 and 2014 pre-merger expenditures for all operating programs of FD7 and FD8, they were compared to like categories of the post-merger 2015 budget. Key indicators included the administrative overhead costs (e.g. office costs, insurance, legal support, telecommunications, etc.) were 79.4% of pre-merger costs and overall operating costs were 96.1% of pre-merger costs. Costs for expanded staffing, both volunteer and career, reflected a 5% to 7% increase, but also mirrored higher staffing levels.

Some longer term savings in capital costs are expected to be realized as motor vehicle fleet, facilities and equipment are gradually reduced commensurate with the three-firestation based response planning concept. We will continue to monitor these results and report them when available.

Our Mission:

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

South Bay Fire Department

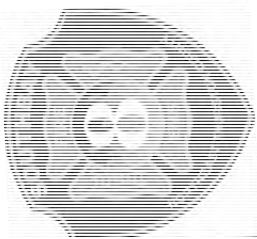
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES to be a volunteer Firefighter/EMT?

Learn more - Southbayfire.com



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



CHIEF'S CORNER (cont.)

RECOGNITION OF OUR MEMBERS

Board of Fire Commissioners:

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Tom Engle
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Richard Gleckler
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Milt Harper
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Richard Small
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Fire Chief:

Brian VanCamp
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Assistant Chiefs:

Greg Kessel, Facilities & Equipment
kessel@southbayfire.com

Brandon LeMay, Training & Recruitment
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Brent McBride, Operations & Safety
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District Secretary:

Heidi Stumpf
heidip@southbayfire.com

On February 6th, the District celebrated its annual recognition of achievement for its membership. At the ceremony, members are recognized for their tenure and special awards given for "above and beyond the call of duty." Our group of officers selected Diana Estrada as Firefighter of the Year. Senior management selected Jonathan Clemens as Officer of the Year. The Bulldog Award was presented by Chief VanCamp to Erik Mueller.

Retiring Commissioner Art Getchman was presented with a special award recognizing his 36 years of service.

Members recognized for 1 year of service included: Rachael Anderson, Drew Bonser, Jeff Brown, Diana Estrada, Anson Friar, Max Hollander, Donnie Kiernan, Ashlie Lehmann, Dave Liukkonen, Ryan Luensman, Jess Pagoria, Lucas Springstead, Aubrey Stoda, Apryl Weikel and Tom Engle.

2 years of service: David Dodge, Ryan Ikerd, Erik Mueller, Joanne Mulder and Ian Stenerson;

3 years of service: Christopher Edwards, Alex McManus, Travis Osborne, Christopher Pawlowski, Zach Skorna, Rebecca Welsh and Kaleb Wilson;

4 years of service: Jeffrey Beaulieu, Ron Henson, Mara Osborn, Tony Warfield and Jacob Zvirsdys;

5 years of service: Peik Andersen, Robert Gormley, Dale Hayes, Kyle Iverson, Chris LaDue, Brandon LeMay, Dustin McCann and Justin Russell;

8 years of service: Ray Meyers; and 15 years of service: Brent McBride.

Commissioner Harper, South Bay Firefighter Association President Doug Kilpatrick and I hosted the ceremony. A fine dinner and good time was had by all. *Congratulations to all members for your service to the community!*



Diana Estrada (L) Firefighter of the Year



15 years of service: Assistant Chief Brent McBride



Jonathan Clemens (L) Officer of the Year



Eric Mueller (R) Bulldog Award



5 years of service: L to R Brandon LeMay, Justin Russell, Dustin McCann, Chris LaDue, Robert Gormley and Peik Andersen



Front Row (L to R) Ashlie Lehmann; Matthew Hankins, Kyle Chiatovich, Kyle McClellan; Bryan Marquez, John Wilson, Jarid Maker, Eli Fox, Robert Hemphill & Benjamin Lacy Back Row (L to R) Commissioners Mike Berman; Rich Gleckler & Tom Engle; Battalion Chief Les Robinette; Commissioner Milt Harper; Assistant Chief Brandon LeMay; Chief Brian VanCamp and Assistant Chief Doug Kilpatrick

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

It is the season for graduations! On June 16th we celebrated the graduation of several of our members from the Thurston County Fire Recruit Academy and the Thurston County Medic One EMT Class. We want to thank each of the grads for their hard work, commitment and energy for actively pursuing their first steps into the Fire-EMS profession.

FIRE DISTRICT 8 RECEIVES NEW FIRE PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

The rates you pay for your fire insurance premium may be based upon the recommended public protection classification assigned to our fire department by the Washington Survey & Rating Bureau (WSRB). The WSRB, a non-profit agency created by the insurance companies in Washington State, provides technical guidance to insurance carriers in setting rates based on the calculated fire risk within a local community. The WSRB has staff that inspect local fire departments, utility services (primarily water) and building/fire code enforcement agencies to determine, based upon grading criteria, how well those organizations can mitigate the threat of catastrophic fires. The results of adding the scores will result in an assignment of a Public Protection Classification (PPC) for the fire department ranging from 10 (no fire protection) to 1 (the best class possible).

Currently, our District's public protection classification is rated as 8 with tender credits; this is about as good as a fire department can do without an extensive water hydrant system available for water supply. In February, a WSRB survey team met with District staff for its evaluation of the fire department criteria and classification rate which resulted in lowering our classification rate from an 8 to a 5! The District was also evaluated for WSRB Tender Credit, and it was determined that it would retain those credits. Our improved rate of a 5 (with tender credits) will be effective September 1, 2016.

Impacts: A PPC of "Class 5" will apply to residential and commercial properties located within five road miles of a responding firestation and having standard fire hydrant distribution and water supply. Properties in the community not meeting these requirements will receive a different protection class rating. Residential properties *without* a fire hydrant within 1,000 feet and within five road miles from a responding firestation will receive a protection *Class 6*. For residential properties within five to seven road miles from a responding firestation, they will receive a protection *Class 9*.

The change in PPC can affect the owner's fire insurance premiums (depending on the process the insurance company uses to establish premium rates). For more information and details on the evaluation process, please visit our website.

Follow-up: The results of the WSRB report will be included in future District strategic planning efforts. Within the context of the evaluation report, *and those elements with which the District can affect*, the following will be examined for improvement:

- ✓ Based on the required proximity of five road miles from a recognized responding firestation for an occupancy protection class of Class 5 or Class 6, there is an area in the Fishtrap Loop-Lovejoy Court that is beyond the five-mile distance to the nearest Firestation (North Olympia 8-3); therefore, the owners may sustain an increased fire insurance premium. The District is examining short and long-term options to mitigate this impact;
- ✓ Increases to the normal minimum on-duty staffing during the day and night-weekend shifts; and
- ✓ Increasing fire-ground training

Please visit our website for a detailed explanation and review of the report. You can also call Chief VanCamp if you have specific questions.



North Olympia Station

5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE Olympia, WA 98506
Phone 360-705-0196



South Bay Station

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Phone 360-491-45320

Comments and concerns should be directed to:

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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.

Commissioner Retires After 36 Years of Service

Commissioner Art Getchman attended his last regular Board meeting on December 17, 2015 after giving thirty-six years of his life representing the people in South Bay Fire District 8. He was first elected as a Commissioner in



Commissioner Art Getchman then (late 60's) and now.

1979 and was re-elected for six, consecutive six year terms. During his time in office, the department evolved from a small, fully volunteer organization into an emergency response system with eleven full-time employees with over seventy volunteers and recognized as one of the top departments in the state. He helped shepherd a recent merger of the North Olympia District 7 into District 8.

Art and his wife Carol have lived in the Puget Sound area all their lives and the last fifty-three years in their home on Henderson Inlet off Johnson Point Road. He is well known throughout the Olympia

area for his long tenure in education where he was well respected for his positive relationship with students and parents. He retired from the North Thurston Public School District in 1987 having served as a teacher, coach and vice-principal at North Thurston High School and school principal at Nisqually Middle School and Timberline High School.

He was and still is very active in the Lacey Rotarians and very involved in that organization's annual "Duck Dash" to help needy families and other benevolent activities. He and his wife Carol are active members of the Gull Harbor Lutheran Church. In his spare time, Art enjoys fishing, shrimping and crabbing. He and his wife also enjoy spending time following their grandchildren's activities.

On February 6, 2016, his colleagues at the Fire Department honored his service at the Annual Awards Banquet by presenting him with the traditional top award for service – a full-sized fire axe mounted on an award plaque. The Board and Department members will miss his pleasant personality, witty remarks and sage advice.



Being honored at the annual Awards Banquet: (L to R) Commissioner Small, Assistant Chief Kessel, Commissioner Getchman, Assistant Chief LeMay and Chief VanCamp

Officer Development Program



"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." - John F. Kennedy

Not unlike most organizations – a Fire Department can only be as effective as the leaders and supervisors of its membership. While there will always be a need for more entry level responders there is often an even greater challenge to acquire and maintain enough volunteer officers to lead the shift responders. This is one of the greatest challenges the department currently faces. In order to combat this challenge and help the department truly evolve, the South Bay Fire Department has an Officer Development Program (ODP). One of the department's organizational development priorities is to maintain and grow an on-going officer development program. The basic idea of ODP is to provide specialized training, coaching and mentoring for members who exhibit or plan to gain leadership traits and have an interest in promotion within the department. There is a high level of focus and coaching to the ODP candidates for promotional preparation. The program consists of formal and informal training sections, including mentorship from existing Volunteer Officers, online and other self-study work as well as formal training such as attending Fire Officer level courses. The Officer Development Program is just one of many additional challenges and growth opportunities that the department offers volunteer members! The program coordinator is our own

volunteer Battalion Chief Les Robinette – one of the departments most experienced and exceptional leaders. A special thank-you goes to Battalion Chief Robinette for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the department's growth!

As always feel free to contact Assistant Chief LeMay or Battalion Chief Robinette for any questions or additional information!

Free Firewise Landscape Design Seminar for You!

After last summer, more people are aware that fire can move quickly and stops for nothing. There are landscape improvements that you can do to decrease the risk of fire damage to your home and property. Wouldn't you want a purposeful landscape that is also attractive? Beauty does not have to be sacrificed for function.

We are pleased to offer our residents a free landscape design seminar that includes fire resistive plants and a design plan that improves the wildfire defensibility of their homes. This seminar will be held on:

Wednesday, August 17th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

It will be held at our South Bay Station located at 3506 Shincke Road NE.

This presentation, titled Fire Wise Landscapes, will give you hints on planning, planting and preparing so that your home can be safer from a moving blaze. Our presenter will be Kirsten Lints who is an accomplished professional that combines the beauty of plants native to Western Washington, the NFPA Firewise and Ready-Set-Go programs to show attendees how they can design their space to be both attractive and more resistant to fire danger.

The WSU Extension service says of their Fire -Resistant Plants publication:

"As homeowners continue to build in the wild and urban interface, they must take special precautions to protect their homes. One way to do this is to create a defensible space around the home, and one important factor can be using fire-resistant plants in landscaping. While taking actions to create a defensible space do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances. This publication provides a diverse list of plants that are both fire-resistant and attractive. Plants are listed by categories: groundcovers, perennials, shrubs, and trees. Sun and water requirements are included for each plant."

Please join us for this FREE seminar that will focus on fire resistant plants for home landscapes and selecting plants that may reduce your risk for wildfire. No sign-up is needed. Just show up on the 17th!



Do You Have What It Takes to Be A Volunteer?

"You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." ~ Unknown

Becoming a volunteer Firefighter/EMT is far more challenging and competitive than it was in previous years. The challenges facing Emergency response along with an increased call volume demands only the highest caliber of people. That's why the South Bay Fire Department strives to recruit highly motivated and competent people who harbor a strong desire to serve others in their worst times of need.

Being a Firefighter/EMT is not for most people and challenges even the toughest and most astute team members. However, this is no doubt, one of the most rewarding, exciting and challenging ways a person can volunteer to help the community!

It takes someone who has the ability to remain calm and collective during a critical incident. Those selected for volunteer membership will partake in the department's orientation process, be assigned a mentor, and will get registered for the Thurston County Fire Academy and EMT Courses to become properly trained and certified. There is no out of pocket cost for training or certification for members selected at the South Bay Fire Department, in fact they are even paid a stipend for their time and contribution to the community.

The South Bay FD accepts applications for entry level firefighter and emergency medical technicians 365 days a year, however the selections process only takes place twice a year (January and June). On average the department processes about 50 applications per recruitment cycle (every 6 months). The Department's maximum capacity is 90 volunteers.

The submitted applications are reviewed for accuracy and completeness before the driving record review 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 a 70% or better move on to take the physical agility test consisting of a timed firefighter challenge course. Those who pass the physical agility test an interview. Offers for membership are made based on the number of vacancies and only to the most successful of the applicant pool.

After conducting a criminal background check, selectees are in-processed and conduct department orientation. The new recruit members are scheduled to attend the over-200 hour, Fire Academy or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) school to gain Firefighter and EMT certifications.

Volunteers are rewarded with a competitive array of financial incentives, educational and training opportunities, as well as insurance, retirement benefits and much more! 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 or stop in to talk with us about the details of the program.



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

Driveways: We need your help to help you

We have used the slogan "we can't help you if we can't find you" in the past for our free address signage program. This could be modified a bit to say "we can't help you quickly if we can't get to your home from a public roadway." Some areas of our community have homes at the end of long private driveways. If these driveways are not built and maintained to accommodate our larger fire apparatus, it makes it difficult to respond to a fire or medical emergency in many cases.



A growing trend is for homeowners to install locking gates across their driveways, especially if they are enclosed in a fenced parcel. We get asked many times about how we can gain access

at a locked gate. In many cases, we recommend installing a **Knox brand key or key-box** that we can use to unlock the gate and enter. We have a secured standardized key that allows us to unlock any Knox keyed entry quickly. If this option sounds interesting, contact us and we can put you in touch with the Knox product vendor. Other security entry systems, while less common, are also in place within the District, however, we do not support any other keyed entry system within our fire district.

Construction of private driveways in Thurston County is governed by *Thurston County Ordinance Title 14*, which adopts the current Fire Code, part of which refers to fire apparatus access roads. The *Thurston County Roads Standards* document (1999) also provides minimum specifications for fire access roadways. These regulations apply to newly constructed occupancies, or, those occupancies that are being substantially

remodeled, but they do convey the necessary characteristics required for us to safely drive fire apparatus to your home.

These regulations specify that a fire access roadway shall extend to within 150 feet of all portions of an occupancy (your home), unless exempted with provision for a qualified fire sprinkler system installation, or, if the terrain is physically impossible to support such access. Further, the regulations for driveways stipulate that the dimensions shall be of a width no less than 12 feet, and an unobstructed clearance of 13 feet 6 inches in height. The regulations specify an "all-weather" surface that can support the weight of an apparatus (from 40,000 to 45,000 pounds) and graded not to exceed a slope of 15% (rise of 15 feet for every 100 feet in length). Specification for bridges, turn-arounds and bend radii are also included in both documents.

We urge you to check out your driveway and see if it meets these specifications. It may need some brush trimming and some gravel patching here and there, but, if it is long and has narrow lanes, steep angles and is encroached with plant-life, you may want to contact us and we can help plan in advance as to how we can access your home when and if needed in an emergency. You can also call us if you need address signs, need help in evaluating your driveway or want to look into a Knox security device. Just give us a call at 360-491-5320.



Residential outdoor burning is not permitted from July 15 - October 15

For more information on alternatives to outdoor burning, please visit our website or Olympic Region Clean Air Agency at www.orcaa.org. You can also call Thurston County Solid Waste at (360) 786-5494.

Free for our citizens

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 (or for information on First Aid training), please call Medic One at (360) 704-2780.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS

Free smoke alarms are available to our community. Prevention is the best way to keep your home and your family safe from fire. To get a free alarm, you can call our front office at (360) 491-5320; or stop by the South Bay station to pick one up.

FREE HOME ADDRESS MARKERS

Free address markers are available from the South Bay Fire Department. If you live in the district and need a marker, please stop by or email us to request one. Markers will be installed by the Department free of charge.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Stop by our either of our Stations any time and receive a blood pressure check.

