



## Member Awards & Recognition

On February 3rd, we celebrated the exceptional members of our Department at our annual Recognition & Awards Banquet. This event provides a platform to shine a spotlight on individual achievements and milestones.

In addition to expressing gratitude for their years of support and service, we took special pride in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of the following members:

- ★ Officer of the Year – Travis Osborne
- ★ Career Member of the Year – Ryan Fakkema
- ★ Volunteer of the Year – Dale Hayes
- ★ 30 Years of Service – Commissioner Doug Kilpatrick
- ★ 50 Years of Service – Chief Brian VanCamp
- ★ Retiree – Commissioner Milt Harper

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees and express our gratitude for their invaluable contributions to our community.



## Welcome Commissioner Jake Hunter!



Commissioner Jake Hunter

In January of this year, our Board of Fire Commissioners proudly welcomed Jake Hunter as our newest member, filling the esteemed shoes of retired Commissioner, Milt Harper.

With fifteen years of experience, Jake began his fire service journey at South Bay Fire Department as a Volunteer. Currently serving as Assistant Chief of Training at Lacey Fire District 3, he supervises 140 members' training in EMS, fire, and beyond. Jake, with his wife and two sons, resides near Boston Harbor, actively engaging in community endeavors such as coaching youth sports and volunteering at local schools and charity events.

As the newest Commissioner, Mr. Hunter brings a unique perspective to an already successful Board. His goals are to help grow our department's career and volunteer ranks while we continue to provide excellent services to our citizens.

## Free for Our Community

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



If you need a free home address marker, please call us or order one on our website. [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com)

**Home Address Markers**

**CPR Training**  
Compression only CPR training is offered monthly and held at our North Olympia Station 8-3. Dates are listed on our website. Sign-up is required through Medic One. Call 360-704-2790 to sign up.



Thurston County Emergency Management provides filled and/or unfilled sandbags to fire departments in the county.



Call us at 360-491-5320 for more information.

**Covid-19 Tests**  
To get a free Covid test, stop by our South Bay Station 8-1 and pick one up.



**Smoke Alarms**  
Stop by our South Bay Station 8-1 any time and receive a smoke alarm



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

## June is Pet Preparedness



### Include Your Pets in Your Emergency Plan

Make sure your pets are included in your family's emergency plan. Arrange with neighbors, friends, or relatives for pet care or evacuation if you're unable to do so. Microchip your pet and keep information updated. Prepare for your pets as you do for your family by including their

needs in your emergency supply kit. Have two emergency kits: one for sheltering in place and one for evacuation. Include food, water, medicine, ID tags, a carrier, sanitation supplies, a photo of you and your pet, and familiar items.

For large animals, prep beforehand by ensuring identification, planning evacuation routes, and providing necessary transportation and facilities. If evacuation isn't viable, decide on sheltering in a barn or releasing outside.

In case of an emergency, stay informed with wireless alerts and bring pets indoors at the first sign of danger.

The South Bay Fire Department will offer free **Pet Window Stickers** to our community in June. Having a pet sticker on your windows can be helpful for emergency preparedness. It helps alert firefighters about your pets during evacuations, offers clear communication, brings peace of mind, and promotes pet safety in emergencies. To get your pet window sticker after June 1st, visit our website or give us a call.

#### South Bay Fire Dept. News

Thurston County Fire Protection District 8  
3506 Shincke Rd. NE Olympia, WA 98506  
(360)491-5320 | [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com)

## FIRE CHIEF'S



CORNER

Chief Brian VanCamp

### Proposition 1 Excess Levy for Maintenance & Operations, August 6th Election

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners and our volunteer and career staff, I want to thank voters again for approving the levy rate restoration ballot measure during the 2023 Primary Election. The added funding provided through the fully restored levy rate (\$1.50) helps us to maintain our service commitments to you.

As we stated in 2023, this was the first of two ballot measures requesting voter approval for fully funding the staffing of our two primary firestations: South Bay and North Olympia. The District has a five-year master plan to provide consistent staffing at both firestations by the year 2027. To fund this staffing, we also need to obtain voter approval in 2024 for a new excess levy for maintenance and operations that will go in effect in 2025.

We strive for consistent, high-quality emergency medical and fire services from our two main fire stations. Challenges include declining volunteers, higher call volumes, and inflation, leading to rising costs. While historically funded by a basic property tax levy of up to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed property value, other fire departments in our area have voter-approved excess levies. Additional funding is needed to uphold staffing and equipment standards and meet service objectives.

On April 19th, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved placing "Proposition 1" on the August 6th, 2024 Primary Election ballot. If passed, it would increase property tax by \$0.52 per thousand dollars of assessed value for the District.

Emergency medical and fire services impact community safety and homeowner's insurance rates. Levy ballots allow voters to consider these benefits versus costs.

Find ballot measure details on our website at [southbayfire.com](http://southbayfire.com) under "Ballot Info." Attend upcoming public forums for direct input and Q&A. We'll notify you once scheduled. Your insights are invaluable as we address community needs.

For further inquiries, please email me at [vancamp@southbayfire.com](mailto:vancamp@southbayfire.com) or call 360-491-5320.

Thanks again for your continued support,

Chief Brian VanCamp