



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News

Volume 14, Issue 1

WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM

1st Quarter 2022

WELCOME NEW EMERGENCY RESPONDERS!

The South Bay Fire Department anticipates positive changes for 2022 and we are optimistic and encouraged that this year will be a great one! One of our first actions worth celebrating is the hiring of three new emergency responders who started in January. We are pleased to welcome and introduce them here.

Kristian Baldwin recently relocated to Olympia from Vancouver, Washington, where she worked as an Instructor/Office administrator for Clark County Fire District #5 Training. Before accepting a career position with South Bay, she also volunteered with Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue for almost two years.

Eric Gettle currently lives in Chehalis with his wife and five-year-old son. He joined South Bay in 2018 as a volunteer. He has a background in ministry prior to working as an EMT with Olympic Ambulance. Originally from Tacoma and Gig Harbor, Eric enjoys

running and hiking with his dogs, watching movies, and playing games with his family.

Bryce Gibler has lived in the Lacey/Olympia area his entire life. He joined South Bay as a volunteer in 2017. He's worked at East Olympia Fire Department part time for a year, then with Mason County Fire District #4 part-time and promoted to a career position for two years. During that time, he gained leadership experience and enjoyed mentoring new firefighters. In his free time, he enjoys riding dirt bikes, working on cars and bodybuilding.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Gloria Zvirzdys
gzvirzdys@southbayfire.com
Milt Harper
mharper@southbayfire.com
Pamela Long
plong@southbayfire.com
Douglas Kilpatrick
kilpatrick@southbayfire.com
Daniel Bivens
dbivens@southbayfire.com
FIRE CHIEF:
Brian VanCamp
vancamp@southbayfire.com
ASSISTANT CHIEF:
Brandon LeMay
lemay@southbayfire.com
DISTRICT SECRETARY:
Heidi Stumpf
heidis@southbayfire.com



Firefighter Kristian Baldwin

"I really love the area of South Bay and the community has been nothing but kind and welcoming. I feel very blessed to be here."



Firefighter Eric Gettle

"I'm honored to continue serving my community with such a great Fire Department. I've loved South Bay since the day I got here. Thank you for having me as one of your newest Firefighters!"



Firefighter Bryce Gibler

"I am very thankful to be back with my home Department!"

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 normally held at our South Bay Station 8-1.

During the Covid-19 pandemic and in conjunction with Washington State's safety mandates, meetings may be held virtually. See our website for link. www.southbayfire.com

JOIN US FOR PUSH-IN CEREMONY

We are pleased to invite the community to celebrate the newest addition to our firefighting apparatus fleet with a traditional "push-in" ceremony for our new Pierce, 1,500 gallon-per-minute pumper. The new firetruck, now dubbed "Engine 8-1," officially arrived at the firestation last year.

The dedication ceremony has been a tradition in the fire service that dates back to the late 1800s when fire departments used hand-drawn pumpers and horse-drawn equipment. Since horses could not back apparatus into the firehouse, the crew would have to unhitch the horses then push the apparatus into the firehouse bay.

The ceremony will be held prior to our regular Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting, on Tuesday, April 12th, beginning at 5:30 pm. The event will take place at the South Bay Station located at 3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia.

The Department would like to thank the South Bay community for funding this new fire engine. Our new engine replaces a nearly 30-year old fire engine that has served the District well.



FREE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

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

Smoke Alarms

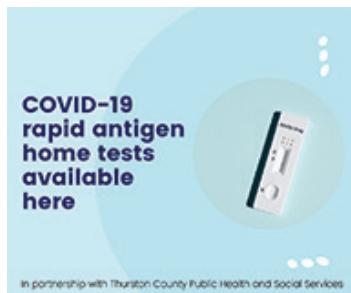
Prevention is the best way to keep your home and family safe. To get a free alarm, stop by our South Bay Station to pick one up.



South Bay Fire Department

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

Learn more - Southbayfire.com



FREE TAKE-HOME COVID TESTS!

The South Bay Fire Department has partnered with the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department to offer free take-home Covid-19 tests to community members. Feel Free to stop by our South Bay Station 8-1 (3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506) Monday-Friday from 8am - 4 pm. A member of our department will be happy to provide you 1 kit per member of your household!

South Bay Fire Dept. News

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



CHIEF'S CORNER

We survived the holiday season and inclement winter weather and spring is now teasing us with some days of blue skies and sunshine! We continue to manage through the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing convenient new testing procedures for our members and their households. This is important to ensure we can maintain our staffing levels to best respond to our communities' needs.

2022 goals and objectives

As part of our ongoing comprehensive planning efforts, we have adopted three goals (and their accompanying objectives) for 2022 which include:

1. Preparing and implementing an improved staffing deployment model for emergency responders,
2. Conducting and completing our collective bargaining agreement negotiations for the 2023-2025 agreement with IAFF Local 2903, and
3. Developing and adopting a 2023-2027 financial plan to provide sufficient funding to ensure adequate staffing, operational support and capital assets.

These goals and their objectives can be found on our website at www.southbayfire.com.

Incident readiness & response staffing

I am pleased to announce that we have employed three new career Firefighter-EMTs that came on board in January. (*See front page.*) The hiring of these ambitious folks is part of working toward Goal #1 (above) to help us reliably maintain staffing at our South Bay and North Olympia firestations around the clock.

The major challenge has been to recruit and retain volunteer emergency responders due to the impacts of the pandemic, societal changes and other factors. Our average number of volunteer members dropped in 2021 to 42 from a previous average of 61. This decrease has seriously impacted our ability to staff both firestations.

2021 incidents

Last year was very busy for the District, with a total of 1,026 calls. This compares with a fourteen year average call volume of 876 per year. As usual, 78% of the calls were for medical-related causes, both emergency and non-emergency.

An emerging issue has been the delay or lack of availability of private ambulance resources. Typically, the District does not provide ambulance service; however, recently it has been forced to do so many times. This is a result of private ambulance staffing limitations, delays at the hospital for admitting patients and increased call volume. This issue has impacted our staffing availability for the "next call."

Monthly Reports

Every month I publish a report that includes many of the key staffing and operational matters I have discussed above. Copies of each month's report can be found on our website. I encourage you to visit our website at www.southbayfire.com and learn more about your Fire Department.

Chief Brian VanCamp