



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News



Volume 15, Issue 3

WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM

Fall 2023

Fire Chiefs

Corner



Chief Brian VanCamp

Many Thanks for Your Support!

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners and our volunteer and career staff, I want to thank voters for approving Fire District 8's *Proposition 1* in the Primary Election held on August 1st. The added funding provided through the fully restored levy rate (\$1.50), will help improve our ability to meet our service commitments to you.

This was the first of two ballot measures requesting voters' support for fully-funding the staffing of our two primary firestations: South Bay and North Olympia. In order to achieve the necessary staffing, we will also need to obtain voter support in 2024 for a new excess levy as well. While the exact increase in property taxes to be proposed is not yet determined, we estimate that it could be about 40 to 50 cents per thousand of assessed real property value. We will be working on more detailed information in the coming months. The proposition will be included in the fall 2024 election process.

All fire agencies are facing significant cost increases due to declining volunteerism, COVID-19 impacts, and inflation. For many years, we have funded our service with a basic property

tax levy rate of up to \$1.50 per thousand of the assessed real property value. Comparable fire departments in our region have been operating with voter-approved excess levies above that level.

The quality of emergency medical and fire services has an impact on the health and safety of our community and on homeowners' insurance rates. Levy ballot measures provide voters the opportunity to weigh these benefits against the cost.

To learn more about our plans visit our website, southbayfire.com and select About Us/District Direction. If you have any questions or need further information, please email me at vancamp@southbayfire.com or give me a call at 360-491-5320.

FREE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

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.

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

Covid-19 Tests

To get a free Covid test, stop by our South Bay Station to pick one up.

South Bay Recognizes Time-Honored Volunteer Members!

As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, the South Bay Fire Department would like to recognize some of our longstanding volunteers.

Most of our volunteers begin as either a Firefighter (FF) or an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). They generally become dual-certified as both. Ideally, members also become apparatus operators (AO). Some will be promoted to Lieutenant (LT). Some of our senior members have transitioned to Operations Support (OSP) to provide emergency responses with the District's water tenders to support firefighting. In addition, we have a volunteer member who serves as the Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer (EMSO) whose role is to manage the District's emergency medical services (EMS) program. We also have several non-response volunteers who work as reception staff.



The following members have shown an enduring dedication to the Department with their many years of volunteer service. We value their membership and greatly appreciate their continued commitment to the District.



Don Prine



Walker Armstrong



James Poole



Jonathan Clemens



Chris LaDue



Dustin McCann



Dale Hayes



Ronald Henson

Volunteer Members

Donald Prine (OSP)	26 years of service
Walker Armstrong (OSP)	23 years of service
James Poole (FF/AO)	19 years of service
Jonathan Clemens (EMSO)	17 years of service
Chris LaDue (LT)	13 years of service
Dustin McCann (FF/AO)	13 years of service
Dale Hayes (FF/EMT/AO)	13 years of service
Ronald Henson (Reception)	11 years of service

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 all months except Jan, April, July and Oct., when they are held at our North Olympia Station 8-3.

We also offer meetings virtually. See our website for the link.



Volunteers Needed to Serve Your Community

Our District was founded by a group of citizens who got together to help one another and formed a community Volunteer Fire Department. If you or your neighbors are interested in serving your community by becoming a volunteer firefighter/EMT, please visit our website for more information.

We recruit new firefighters/EMT's twice a year - October 1st and April 1st. You can also call us to schedule a station tour, to learn more about the Department, and meet some of the crew.



South Bay Fire Dept. News

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ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE?



According to the Department of Natural Resources, each year, wildland fires consume homes in the wildland-urban interface – defined as areas where homes are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of homes lost to wildland fire may have been saved if brush around the homes were cleared and defensible space were created around structures. There is no better time than now to prepare and educate your family, friends and neighbors. Make sure everyone knows what to do to protect people and homes in case of fire.

Homes built in forests should have a minimum defensible space of 100 feet. If your home sits on a steep slope, standard protective measures may not suffice. You can learn more by visiting dnr.wa.gov/firewise. and <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires#prepare> and <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>. These sites have detailed information on preparing your home for wildfires.

12 Steps to Defend Your Home from Wildfire

1. Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures. Remove vines from the walls of the home. Clear all flammable vegetation.
2. Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
3. Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
4. Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
5. Ask the power company to clear branches from powerlines.
6. Mow grass regularly.
7. Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a nonflammable screen over the grill - with mesh no coarser than 1/4 inch.
8. Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.
9. Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for 2 days; then bury the cold ashes in mineral soil.
10. Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
11. Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet.
12. Review your homeowner's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents.

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: Chief Brian VanCamp vancamp@southbayfire.com Follow us on Facebook.com/SouthBayFire; Instagram.com/sbfd08; and Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/agency/south-bay-fire-department>