



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

SOUTH BAY NEWS

3506 Shineke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506 360/491-5320

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January/February 2009

Upcoming Events



- ◆ January 1
Happy New Year!
- ◆ January 5
Assc/Bus Mtg & Barbecue
- ◆ January 12
Officer's Mtg
- ◆ January 16
BoFC Mtg 12 noon
- ◆ January 19
Martin Luther King Day NO DRILL
- ◆ January 30
BoFC Mtg 12 noon
- ◆ Jan 31 & Feb 1
ITAC Training 8:30-4:30
- ◆ February 2
Assc/Bus Mtg benefits info
- ◆ February 6
BoFC Mtg noon
- ◆ February 7
Awards Program
- ◆ February 9
Drill: Infectious Disease (required)
- ◆ February 14
Happy Valentine's Day
- ◆ February 16
EVAP
- ◆ February 20
BoFC Mtg noon
- ◆ February 23
EVAP

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

~ Theodore Roosevelt

2009 AWARDS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars now for our 2009 Awards program, Saturday, February 7, 2009, beginning at 6:30 pm. at Panorama City. This special event is held annually to recognize and thank our hardworking, outstanding members for all their efforts made throughout the year. The "dress-up theme" this year is pirates.



For those of you who have had the pleasure to attend these functions in the past, you know that the Department gives a special gift to its members. This year, the gift is a personalized jacket. In order to best fit you, members have been asked to give us their size and the name they'd like sewn on the jacket. We ask that you provide either a first or last name. Sample sizes are available at the Station. If you haven't given us your size, please do so soon.

NEW DRILL SCHEDULE

In order to better accommodate our volunteers, we have made a change to our drill schedule for 2009. Instead of having drills every Monday night, we will now have shift-based drills. Occasionally, special training sessions and meetings will still be held on Mondays. We hope that this change meets the needs of our members. If you have any questions about the schedule, please see Assistant Chief McBride.

BENEFITS BRIEFING

FEBRUARY 2

Secretary Prince will share information on Department benefits at the business meeting on February 2nd. This will be helpful

ITAC TRAINING FOR OFFICERS

There will be a two-day ITAC training at Station 81 for all officers on January 31 and February 1, 2009 from 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

VOLUNTEER STIPENDS INCREASE FOR 2009

After a review of stipend rates for our volunteers; Commissioners approved a cost of living increase for volunteer work effective January 1, 2009. The following are the new rates:

- ✓ Firefighter, EMT or Non-response ~\$22
- ✓ Firefighter/EMT/FR~\$28
- ✓ Shift Captain~\$45
- ✓ Receptionist~\$20

MEMBERS BOOK UPDATE

Earlier, we asked members to submit information for a Members' Book. The purpose of the book is to keep our members informed and to help them get to know more about each other. Although it's taken a while, the book is finally being printed and should be completed soon. As new members join our organization, we will manually add their pages to the book.



BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS DEFINE TERM FIRE FIGHTER

Recently the State Board for Volunteer Firefighters began the process of drafting a WAC (which is just an agency rule, not a law), that defines the terms “firefighter,” “emergency worker” and “reserve officer,” as well as define the term “active” in regards to participation in the pension system. This part of the WAC will only apply to pension participation and will not cause volunteers to be “fired” from their departments.

The Board has filed a form with the state that declares it has finished drafting the new WAC (a CR-102). The final draft of the WAC is posted on their website. The following is an abbreviated version.

WAC 491-03-020 What duties within a municipality qualify me for participation/membership in the board for volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension principal fund?

If you are a member of a municipality as a volunteer fire fighter or reserve officer who does not qualify for PERS or LEOFF (for their volunteer duties only), and if:

Fire fighters:

(a) You are a fire fighter only if you have the legal authority and responsibility to direct or perform fire protection activities that are required for and directly concerned with preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires, or your primary duty is to serve as an emergency worker (see subsection (3) of this section). "Fire protection activities" may include incidental functions such as housekeeping, equipment maintenance, grounds maintenance, fire safety inspections, lecturing, performing community fire drills and inspecting homes, businesses, and schools for fire hazards. These activities qualify as fire protection activities only if the primary duty of your position is preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires.

(b) You are not a fire fighter if you volunteer in:

- (i) A position that is clerical or secretarial in nature;
- (ii) A position where your primary duty is not preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires;
- (iii) A position that pays a wage which qualifies you for participation in either PERS or LEOFF;
- (iv) A position that is only supervisory in nature and the primary duty is not preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires.

Emergency worker:

(a) You are an emergency worker only if you have the legal authority and responsibility to perform all aspects of medical assessment, treatment, and care for patients as outlined in state and county protocols for paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and first responders. "Emergency activities" may include incidental functions such as housekeeping, equipment maintenance, grounds maintenance, home safety inspections, lecturing, and driving emergency vehicles. These activities qualify as emergency activities only if the primary duty of your position is to perform all aspects of medical assessment, treatment, and care for patients.

(Similarly) (b) You are not an emergency worker if you volunteer in:

- (i) A position that is clerical ...;
- (ii) A position where your primary duty is not to perform all aspects of medical assessment...;
- (iv) A position that is only supervisory in nature ...

NEW SECTION

WAC 491-03-030 What level of activities do I have to participate in to be eligible for participation/membership in the volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' pension? All departments are required to develop volunteer participation requirements that meet or exceed the participation requirements as set by the state board. If a department does not develop their own requirements, the board requirements will be in effect.

(1) The board requires that all volunteers:

(a) Attend a minimum of ten percent, or twenty hours, of all drills and/or training annually, whichever is less.

(b) Respond to a minimum of ten percent of all calls at the member's assigned station, or ninety-six hours of shift, duty, on-call, or standby time, annually.

(c) Meet the requirements to be a qualified member under WAC 491-03-010.

(d) Be certified as having met the standards by the local board chair and by the fire chief, police chief, or sheriff annually on the board for volunteer fire fighters and reserve officers provided forms.

(2) An exemption of up to twelve weeks in a twelve-month period may be granted for:

- (a) A participant's serious health condition;
- (b) A participant to care for a parent, spouse, or minor/dependent child who has a serious health condition;
- (c) The birth of and to provide care to an employee's newborn, adopted, or foster child as provided in WAC 357 31-460...

(3) An exemption of up to twenty-six weeks in a twelve-month period may be granted for: A participant who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member who is suffering from a serious health condition incurred in the line of duty. The leave described in this subsection shall only be available during a single twelve-month period.

(4) An exemption of up to one year may be granted for injuries covered under chapter 41.24 RCW; or up to one year for reserve officers injured in the line of duty and covered under Title 51 RCW.

(5) Departments granting exemptions shall submit written documentation on the board for volunteer fire fighters and reserve officers provided forms for board review.

(6) Members joining service after January 1st, or separating from service before December 31st, will have their requirements prorated for the calendar year.

Mission Statement: *We are committed to serve our community with prompt, consistent and professional fire suppression, basic life support and rescue services.*