



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

SOUTH BAY NEWS

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March/April 2009

Upcoming Events



- ◆ **March 2**
Assc/Bus Mtg
Recruit Academy
Orientation
- ◆ **March 6**
BoFC Mtg noon
- ◆ **March 8**
Stair Climb
- ◆ **March 9**
OTEP
- ◆ **March 14**
Birthday Bash 12-5
- ◆ **March 16**
EVAP
- ◆ **March 20**
BoFC Mtg noon
- ◆ **March 30**
Multi-company
Operations
- ◆ **April 3**
BoFC Mtg noon
- ◆ **April 4**
Skills Course 8 am
- ◆ **April 6**
Business/Assc Mtg
Barbecue

AWARDS BANQUET RECAP

Once again, our awards banquet was a huge success! Almost all of our greatly-appreciated volunteers showed up in wonderful costumes to the 'pirate-themed' extravaganza. Panorama City provided a fabulous meal and the decorations were spectacular—thanks to Ann Cochran for all her hard work!! Many thanks to our Chiefs for their participation in making this event complete: Chief VanCamp, Assistant Chiefs Thompson, Kessel and McBride. Thanks also to Leesa Engle, Lori Rosemond, her daughter Katie and friend Nichole Wasnot for helping to decorate and Judy Caron for seeking donations for door prizes. Most importantly, thanks to our amazing dedicated volunteers without whom we would not have such a successful fire department! Our members make the difference. Each and every one is greatly appreciated which is why this event is so important. Congratulations to the following members who were recognized at the event:

TWO YEARS

Jonathan Clemens
Matthew Richardson
Sean Dougherty
Heidi Prince

THREE YEARS

Sean Murphy
Ethan Evans
Dan Pooley
Alex George
Chris Varady

FOUR YEARS

James Poole
Bryce Craig
Martin Farley

FIVE YEARS

Glenn Gerth

FIFTEEN YEARS

Chad Powell

THIRTY FIVE YEARS

Brian VanCamp

Firefighter of the Year

Michael Fernstrom

Officer of the Year

Glenn Gerth

Inspirational Award

Doug Lawrence

Bulldog Award

Walker Armstrong

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.
- Erma Bombeck



Chief VanCamp is Recognized for 35 Years of Service



A Motley Crew of Pirates

EVAP TRAINING SESSIONS

All members driving department vehicles in emergency mode need to attend *Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention (EVAP) Training Sessions*. The required (2) 2-hour sessions are held February 23 and March 16, 2009 beginning at 7:00 pm at Station 8-1

Policy 26-1 states that "all members who drive heavy vehicles or operate any district vehicle in emergency mode will successfully complete the district approved driver's training and certification program prior to being assigned as a driver."

Volunteers need to attend this critical training if they are to operate heavy vehicles (fire trucks) in emergency mode (on a call).

In order to drive heavy vehicles, members must:

- ✓ Pass the (2) 2-hour classroom training session (total of 4 hours)
- ✓ Pass the driving skills competency course for light vehicles
- ✓ Pass the light vehicle roadway practical evaluation
- ✓ Pass the driving competency course for heavy vehicles
- ✓ Pass the heavy vehicle roadway driving and pump operation practical evaluations

Members who have already successfully passed this program are required to pass the total 4-hour classroom training sessions *every four years* and to pass the roadway driving and pump operation evaluations *bi-annually*. If you have any questions about this program, the District Policy or your standing in regards to driving, please contact Assistant Chief Kessel.

BIRTHDAY BASH

South Bay Fire Department has donated a Birthday party for the Big Brothers Big Sisters that will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 1- 4:30 pm. There will be 15 kids from Big Brothers Big Sisters attending. Volunteers will set up and play games, serve cake and ice cream, take kids on a fire engine ride and take pictures. Mike Fernstrom is a Big Brother to Justin and he is coordinating this fantastic event!

We need help from noon to 5 pm. If you are interested in helping please contact Michael Fernstrom at (540) 230-1736.



SKILLS COURSE

All Volunteer's who wish to drive heavy vehicles or operate any District vehicle in the emergency mode must successfully complete the District approved drivers training and certification program prior to being assigned as a driver. Remember, all new heavy vehicle drivers are limited to skills course driving only. No open road driving is allowed at this time. Evaluators are responsible for and must be present during all skills course training. The skills course is scheduled two times a year with the first weekend in April and October designated as testing days. This year's dates are scheduled for April 5th and October 4th starting at 8 am at the South Sound Mall parking lot. A sign up list will be out in March.



On Sunday, March 8, 2009 firefighters from across the United States will compete in the 18th Annual Scott Firefighter Stair climb. This unique race to the top of the Columbia Center in full combat gear and self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is the largest individual firefighter competition in the world.

The Scott Firefighter Stair climb supports the mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, raising money through sponsorships, individual and department fundraising, and entry fees. In 2008, the event featured over 1,311 firefighters from 225 different departments and brought in a record \$530,000 for blood-cancer research and patient services.

At 788 feet of vertical elevation, the Columbia Center (formerly Bank of America Tower) in downtown Seattle stands as the second tallest building west of the Mississippi. It takes 69 flights of stairs and 1,311 steps to reach the highly acclaimed observation deck overlooking the city.

Participants are challenged to collect at least \$150 in tax-deductible pledges for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Once again, South Bay Volunteers will be participating. If you would like more information, please contact Sean Murphy. For more information log on to www.firefighterstairclimb.org

GET YOUR MEMBERS' BOOK!

Our Members' Books are finally completed and were given out at the Awards Banquet. If you were unable to attend, please stop by the office and pick one up. We'd like each member to have a book!

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