



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

SOUTH BAY NEWS

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"COASTAL CREST" REGIONAL FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

You may not have noticed the magnitude 5.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami at about 8:30 am on Tuesday September 29th which caused havoc in the coastal communities of Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties. You may not because *it really didn't happen*; it was a Washington Homeland Security Region 3 full-scale exercise, testing the alerting response and recovery capabilities of over four dozen local, state and federal agencies in Southwest Washington.

Upcoming Events



- ◆ October 2 BoFC Mtg 12 noon
- ◆ October 3 SKILLS COURSE
- ◆ October 4-10 Fire Prevention Week
- ◆ October 5 Flu shots 3-7:30 pm Barbecue
- ◆ October 6 Visits to SB Elem.
- ◆ October 13 & 14 Leadership Conf
- ◆ October 16 BoFC Mtg 12 noon
- ◆ October 19 Hazmat Refresher
- ◆ October 31 Happy Halloween!
- ◆ November 2 Bus/Assc Mtg
- ◆ November 6 BoFC Mtg 8 am
- ◆ November 11 Veteran's Day
- ◆ November 14 Holiday Bazaar
- ◆ November 16 Asbestos Awareness Training
- ◆ November 20 BoFC Mtg 12 noon
- ◆ November 26 Happy Thanksgiving!



The Task Force staging for deployment



The Task Force responding to the MCI scene (outside of Montesano)



Task Force units arriving at the scene of the MCI, intersection of SR101 and SR107



Task Force units delivering patients to GHCH; the transit bus transported the "walking wounded"



A decontamination process was required for some of the patients prior to admittance to the hospital



Chiefs Brooks and Peterson (rt) conduct a debriefing of Task Force members after the successful completion of the drill

Rescue 81 and crew were part of an EMS Strike Team sent to Cosmopolis for a mass-casualty incident involving a landslide and bus load of citizens. The 20 patients were triaged, given initial treatment and then transported to Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen.

The Strike Team was led by Chief Peterson of Lacey FD3, and included units from Tumwater, Olympia, East Olympia FD6, Lacey FD3 and our Department. The exercise was directed by Chief Brooks of Lacey FD3, who in the debriefing afterwards felt the mission was accomplished successfully. This "incident" was part of many others being tested simultaneously around the region and being managed by the Region 3 Incident Management Team and local Emergency Support Centers in each county.

NEW NORTH-END FIRE STATION PROJECT UPDATE

Work has begun on the initial design on the recently purchased three acres on 78th Ave NE for the new fire station. Staff from design contractor URS, architect Calvin Jordan Associates and the District met with the various Thurston County permit and regulatory agencies on July 2nd to discuss the necessary steps to submit a final design and permit for approval. The current working plan is to use a modified design of Station 3-5 in Fire District 3.

In order to begin landscape, drainage, septic and building structural design work detailed soils examinations must be made at the site. On September 25th, URS geotechnical engineering and project management staff worked with a back-hoe operator to dig test pits throughout the location. Initial indications are positive for good structural bearing and surface drainage. A final report will be provided to the District sometime next month.



The design team digging test holes to sample soils.



"No man or woman, even of the humblest sort, can really be strong, gentle, pure and good without the world being better for it; without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness."
~ Phillips Brooks



UPDATE ON THE H1N1 FLU

As emergency providers & first responders keeping up with the status of the H1N1 flu is important.

Are there H1N1 (swine flu) cases in Washington?

Yes, currently there have been 171 Hospitalizations of Washington residents and 16 confirmed Deaths of Washington residents

How serious is this outbreak?

Most countries have confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine flu). The United States continues to report the largest number of H1N1 hospitalized cases of any country worldwide; however, most people who have become ill have recovered without requiring medical treatment. This flu is similar to the seasonal flu that occurs every year in the U.S. Seasonal flu puts 200,000 people in the hospital and causes hundreds of thousands of illnesses.

What is WHO pandemic alert Phase 6?

Phase 6 is the World Health Organization's highest alert level. It indicates that multiple sustained flu epidemics are occurring in several regions worldwide. The alert level is based on the amount of flu being reported worldwide, not on the seriousness of the infections.

What is the department doing to protect us?

The department takes the threat of H1N1 very seriously. In order to better prepare our members from contracting H1N1 we have placed alcohol hand sanitizers throughout Station 81 & are asking people to get into the habit of using them when they enter and when they leave (gel in & gel out). In the near future there will also be easily accessible hand sanitizers placed on R-81 & E-81. In addition to the hand sanitizers we are now requiring personnel to wear safety glasses on every EMS call. Another thing that can be done is wear your N-95 mask on calls that sound like there may be a high likelihood that the patient has H1N1.

When will the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine be available?



We expect delivery of the first large amount of vaccine in late October. The vaccine will more than likely only be made available to emergency personnel and not to citizens due to the limited amount on hand.

How can I learn more about H1N1?

Visit the Washington State Department of Health's web site at www.doh.wa.gov/h1n1/h1n1 or the Center for Disease Control's web site www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

HIGHWAY FATALITIES LOWEST SINCE 1955

Traffic fatalities in Washington have hit their lowest level since 1955, according to new data from the Washington Department of Transportation and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. The news is encouraging to state officials who are working toward "Target Zero," the goal of having zero traffic-related fatalities or serious injuries by 2030.

To date, 522 deaths have been reported for 2008. That's the lowest since 461 people died in 1955. The 2008 count will not be final until Dec. 31, and it's possible a small number of delayed reports could still be received.

At least some of the good news is attributed to increased usage of seat belts. The number of deaths in which the victim was unbelted has dropped by more than a third since 2000.

Along with enforcement, the other three components of Target Zero are education, engineering and emergency medical services.

Chief Batiste praised emergency medical responders for their success in the Target Zero effort.

"My troopers are witnessing miracles at the side of the road," Batiste said. "Paramedics and emergency responders are saving people who just a few years ago would have certainly become statistics. We marvel at their ability to pull injured people back from the brink of death."

Officials will continue to monitor long-term trends in order to reach the goal of Target Zero.

HOWLING HEROES

Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound is offering a special discount to members of the Armed Forces, Police Force, Fire & Rescue or EMS.



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