



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

South Bay Fire Department News

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Volume 4, Issue 2

FALL 2011



FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF BRIAN VANCAMP

I have written in past issues of the *Newsletter* about our plans for a new fire station on Johnson Point that will replace two existing garage sub-stations. The project has been in the works for several years.

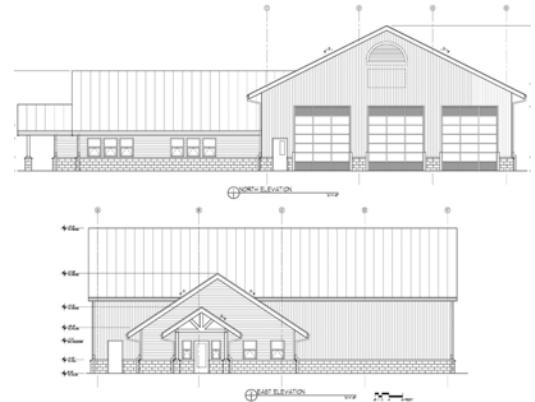
After an extensive community risk assessment, we discovered that certain areas within the District were not receiving adequate levels of service, primarily due to response times.

Several options were developed and evaluated that would mitigate this imbalance of service. Initial estimates of costs for the options were developed and a long-term budget established that included gradual contributions from regular operating revenues.

In 2009, land was purchased at a strategic location that would allow the District to build a new station and to replace the two existing sub-stations. At about the same time, the District engaged the firm URS to provide design and construction services.

In January 2010, a group of over 30 citizens in our community participated in a task force that explored options for the new fire station and provided some recommendations. Among those was to build a 5,600 square foot fire station that could house firefighter-EMTs, reducing response times in the area.

Another task force recommendation was to get voter approval for the Bond issue to pay for part of the construction costs. The District has placed a ballot issue on the November 8th General Election for voter approval of general obligation bonds to help pay for the new fire station. The bonds would provide \$1.2 million of the total project cost of \$2.5 million. This *Newsletter* provides information regarding the project and ballot issue.



Proposed new fire station

KEY FACTS:

- ◆ The goal is to reduce response time in the Johnson Point & Marvin Road areas by two minutes or more: this means a 20% better chance of surviving cardiac arrest
- ◆ The project replaces two existing obsolete fire stations with a new fire station staffed 24 x 7, resulting in an overall reduction in equipment costs equal to \$50,000 per year (\$1 million each 20 year period)
- ◆ The total project costs equal \$2.5 million of which the new general obligation (GO) bond will provide \$1.2 million
- ◆ The current 1996 GO Bond (paid off in 2013) cost the owner of \$300,000 home \$70 per year
- ◆ The proposed 2012 GO Bond (paid off in 2023) will cost \$45 annually in 2014-2023

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Fire Chief's Corner 1 & 2
- You Can Be A Volunteer 3
- We're Here to Help 3
- Nat'l Preparedness Month 4
- CPR 4
- Get to Know A Member 5
- For Our Community 5
- Burn Permits 6

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

NEW NORTH-END FIRE STATION PROJECT

WHY A NEW FIRE STATION?

The project will replace two current, non-occupied sub-stations with a single, more centrally located, staffed fire station. It will also allow for more efficient and effective staffing and equipment deployment, significantly reducing the response times in the Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas. The current District response time to the Johnson Point and Marvin Road areas average (1999-2010) nine minutes 24 seconds. With these changes, the District expects to reduce response times to approximately seven minutes.

WHY NOT CONTINUE TO USE THE TWO EXISTING SUB-STATIONS?

The two sub-stations, built in 1965 and 1979 respectively, cannot house emergency responders without substantial changes to the facilities. Necessary changes would require:

- ♦ Upgrade or replace current on-site septic systems.
- ♦ Upgrade or replace on-site storm water run-off retention-treatment systems.
- ♦ Relocate current water well and upgrade of treatment systems.
- ♦ The Johnson Point Road sub-station currently sits on a 0.37 acre parcel, part of which uses a permanent easement for the building site. There is not sufficient area on site to accommodate any changes required to the septic, storm-water run-off and/or water well. Additional land would need to be purchased, leased or donated to accommodate these changes. Costs for procurement of additional land capacity would be significant.
- ♦ A remodel of either sub-station would be substantial enough to require full compliance with current codes and regulations. To allow occupancy, all building systems such as seismic-structural, electrical, mechanical, fire protection and health and safety must be evaluated and upgraded to meet current codes and regulations.
- ♦ Based on preliminary project definition, a substantial remodel of either sub-station would cost an estimated 50% to 80% (each) of the cost of the new centrally located fire station without reducing operating costs (staffing, equipment, maintenance, etc.).



Sub-station 8-2



Sub-station 8-3

WILL THIS REDUCE MY FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUM?

The current District public protection classification (as established by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau) is Class Eight (8) with tender credits. This would not change with the new fire station. The primary way that this classification could be improved is by the installation of water hydrants throughout the District; which unfortunately is not economically feasible. The utilization of a new staffed fire station will however reduce response times in the District for both fire and emergency medical calls.

IS THIS A GOOD IDEA CONSIDERING CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS?

The District began planning improved service in the northern parts of the District over six years ago when the economic picture was more positive. However: since then, the same economic conditions that we experience today have created a very beneficial construction opportunity with costs at record lows. The District believes that long-term value and project savings can be realized by building at this time.

WHAT WILL THE STAFFING BE AT THE NEW FIRE STATION?

The plan is to staff both the headquarters station and the new station 24 by 7 with a combination of volunteers and career staff. In 2009, the District began to expand its target level of staffing for volunteer responders from 40 to 60 to accommodate regular staffing of a new north-end fire station.

WILL THE NEW SITE INCLUDE A TRAINING FACILITY?

There is no plan to include outdoor training facilities at the new site; the *District Strategic Plan* provides for a training facility at the location of its currently owned property at 3349 South Bay Rd NE. This project will be addressed upon the completion of the new fire station.

HAVE A QUESTION? NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the project, please visit our website or contact me, Chief Brian VanCamp, at

(360) 491-5320

or email VanCamp@SouthBayFire.com.

YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER

"Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer." Jimmy Carter

The South Bay Fire Department is looking for energetic and determined individuals to join our team and support our community.

Our Department provides emergency response and public service to the South Bay area. We are currently accepting applications for entry level firefighter and emergency medical technicians. Some of our members are actively pursuing fire service careers and are gaining training and experience as a volunteer. Most of our members have been here for many years and all have a strong sense of pride and honor as valued members of the South Bay Fire Department.



Benefits

- ♦ Training (Fire fighter & EMS)
- ♦ Complete Uniforms & Bunker Gear
- ♦ Stipends
- ♦ Health & Wellness
- ♦ Pension Plan
- ♦ Accident Insurances
- ♦ Life Insurance
- ♦ Tuition Assistance
- ♦ Chaplain Services
- ♦ Employee Assistance Program
- ♦ Fire Fighter's Association
- ♦ Social & Recognition Events

As an emergency responder we will train you to safely respond and engage in firefighting operations or provide emergency medical assistance and serve the community in a way that no other volunteer organization can offer.

In addition, we have dedicated Volunteer Receptionists who help in the office.

Volunteers are rewarded with the personal satisfaction of serving their community, saving a life or dwelling and serving a necessary purpose to the well-being of their fellow man.

Your dedication efforts don't go unnoticed. In addition to being respected and appreciated by the community, volunteers are also rewarded by our Department. We offer our volunteers a competitive array of financial incentives, educational and training opportunities, as well as insurance, retirement benefits and much more!

If you want to challenge yourself and be a part of something bigger while helping others in the community, fill out an application and get it to us! Feel free to ask for a station tour and meet current members to learn more.

To find out more about volunteering with the South Bay Fire Department, you can call us at (360) 491-5320 or visit us on the web: www.southbayfire.com or stop by and pick up an application at 3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

HOME ADDRESS MARKERS



If you had an emergency at your house, is your home address clearly marked so we could identify your house and respond in a timely matter? When someone has a heart attack, or a house is on fire, minutes make a difference! Some questions to ask yourself about your address are:

- ♦ Is it CLEARLY marked?
- ♦ Can house numbers be seen from the road?
- ♦ If your home is hidden in the trees,
- ♦ Is there some clear address identification visible from the road?
- ♦ Are house numbers clearly visible on a mail box?
- ♦ Can it be read at NIGHT?
- ♦ Are house numbers reflective?
- ♦ Can it be seen from BOTH directions?



**We do FREE blood pressure checks!
Just stop by our station.**

We're Here To Help! Free address markers are available from the South Bay Fire Department. If you live in the district and need a marker or know someone else within the district who needs a marker, please stop by or email us to request one. Markers will be installed by the department free of charge.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September 2011 marks the eighth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security

One goal of Homeland Security is to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, mass casualties, biological and chemical threats, radiation emergencies, and terrorist attacks.

Are you prepared? During September, focus on being ready – at home, at work, and in your community – and prepare for a natural disaster or other emergency.

GET AN EMERGENCY KIT

Red Cross SEPA Chapter recommends your emergency preparedness kit contain enough supplies for three days in case you need to evacuate. The Red Cross also recommends having at least two weeks worth of supplies at home. *An emergency kit includes the basics for survival: fresh water, food, clean air, and warmth.* Supplies should include water (one gallon, per person, per day), nonperishable food, a flashlight, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, a 7-day supply of medications, a multi-purpose tool, sanitation and personal hygiene items, and copies of important personal documents. *For a disaster supplies kit, <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/>*



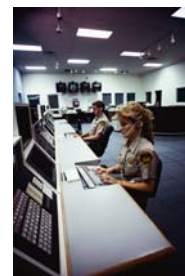
MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Your emergency plan should involve all members of your household, including pets. Make sure each person knows how to reach each other and an out-of-area emergency contact person in case local phone lines are jammed. Make plans with your family and friends in case you're not together during an emergency. Discuss how you'll contact each other, where you'll meet, and what you'll do in different situations. Read how to develop a family disaster plan at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/plan/> or fill out the Homeland Security Family Emergency Plan at <http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf>

BE INFORMED

Being informed means knowing about what resources are available and what types of disasters are most likely to occur where you live, learn, work and play. Take a first aid and CPR course—a vital component of disaster preparedness in case emergency help is delayed.

Check all types of media – Web sites, newspapers, radio, TV, mobile and land phones – for global, national and local information. During an emergency, your local Emergency Management or Emergency Services office will give you information on such things as open shelters and evacuation orders. Check Ready America <http://www.ready.gov/america/local/index.html> for community and state information to learn about resources in your community.



Homeland Security promotes emergency preparedness throughout the year via the Ready America campaign. Checklists, brochures, and videos are available in English and in Spanish online and by phone (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO).

Additional information and resources are available from <http://emergency.cdc.gov/> Emergency Preparedness Response under topics such as hurricane preparedness, extreme heat, and bioterrorism. CDC continually updates information on recent outbreaks and incidents and lists emergency resources for the general public as well as for clinicians and public health professionals.

Links are available on the Southbayfire web site as well.

LEARN CPR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE—DO CPR

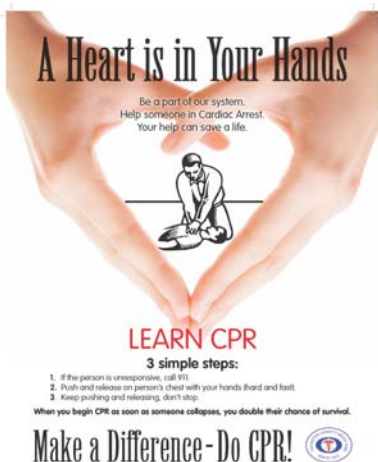
In a medical emergency when someone stops breathing, giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until emergency medical help arrives can mean the difference between life and death.

3 Simple Steps:

1. If the person is unresponsive, call 911
2. Push and release on person's chest with your hands (hard and fast)
3. Keep pushing and releasing, don't stop

If you or someone you know would like to take a CPR course, free CPR classes are available through the South Bay Fire Department usually on Wednesday evenings. Classes are held 7 - 10 pm.

For specific dates, give us a call or visit our web site. To register for a class, please call Medic One at (360) 704-2780.



GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Our Department is proud to have over 60 dedicated volunteer members. We would like to introduce members to the community as part of an on-going section in this newsletter. To begin, we introduce and interview Captain Jerry Johnson.



How long have you been a Volunteer with the Department?

Nineteen years; over five of them as a Captain.

What is unique about being a Captain?

I find it very rewarding. As I've grown older and gained more experience in the field, I enjoy the leadership role.

What do you do as a career when you are not volunteering?

I own and operate a hair salon in the Tumwater Valley Athletic Club. I've been in the hair business for over 35 years.

How is your role as a professional business owner similar to being a Captain?

I enjoy decision making and mentoring new hair dressers as well as volunteer responders.

Why did you become a volunteer with the South Bay Fire Department and what has kept you here so long?

Years ago, my goal was to be a paid paramedic, but the opportunity to own the salon came along and I took it. I am a local community member who lives in the District. I really like helping people and value what the Department stands for, so I became a

volunteer. I get to enjoy the two things I love to do – cut hair and emergency medical service. I really like what I do!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I'm a "hole in one" golfer! I also like to river fish.

What is most rewarding about your role in the Department?

I like providing quality of service. Recently I went on a Mutual Aid call with the Lacey FD to assist an elderly couple. The husband was taken to the hospital and the wife was unable to join him due to physical limitations. I stayed with her for over three hours until another family member could arrive and help her out. This is a perfect example of the satisfaction I gain helping others. Going "above and beyond" is the most rewarding element of volunteering.

Thank you for your interview. Do you have any closing comments you would like to share?

My family is most important to me and next are my two jobs – the salon and the Department!

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mark your calendars for the annual South Bay Firefighters' Holiday Bazaar on

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011,
FROM 9 AM - 4 PM.**

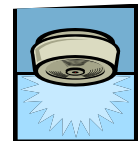
Each year our Association hosts a fun-filled Holiday Bazaar for community members, held at our main Station 81. Community members sell their crafts, hand-made treasures, holiday gift items and more! The Fire Fighter's Association will also host a snack bar and a bake sale. All proceeds from this fundraiser go back to the Association to host community outreach programs.



Vendor registration forms and detailed information is on our web site www.southbayfire.com or you can call us at (360) 491-5320 and we'll mail you a packet. We hope to see you there!

SMOKE ALARMS

The South Bay Fire Department is offering our community members free smoke alarms with a focus on those who are *low income, senior citizens, or residing in mobile homes.*



Fire Department personnel and volunteers will install the alarms. During the installation, they will provide fire prevention tips and help homeowners and residents with fire escape plans. Prevention is the best way to keep your home and your family safe from fire.

To apply for a free alarm, you can call our front office at (360) 491-5320; visit our web site at www.southbayfire.com or stop by our station at 3506 Shincke Road NE. We will take your information and schedule an appointment.

SOUTH BAY FIRE DEPT.
THURSTON COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT 8
3506 SHINCKE RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA 98506



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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:

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ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

**PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!**

BURN PERMITS

**Residential outdoor burning
is not permitted
from July 15
through October 15**



OPEN BURNING PERMITS

Residential outdoor burning permits expire each year on July 14 and a new permit is required for the next burning season beginning October 16.

You can obtain a residential outdoor burning permit at our main fire station at 3506 Shincke Road NE or download one at home from our web site www.southbayfire.com

Safe burning practices and regulations can be found on the back of the burning permit as well as a list of prohibited burning materials.

For alternatives to burning contact Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (orca) (360) 586-1044 or visit www.ORCAA.org Other alternatives to burning can also be found at the Thurston County Water & Waste Management site www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

Our Mission:

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

Go Green

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know by giving us your name and email address at info@southbayfire.com