



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News

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WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM

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Free for Our Community!

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.

Smoke Alarms
Prevention is the best way to keep your home and family safe from fire. To get a free smoke alarm, stop by our South Bay Station 8-1.



District Master Plan



After the 2015 merger of North Olympia FD7 and South Bay FD8 was completed, we began a thorough strategic planning process that would address all aspects of the new organization. This master planning process became a multi-phase plan for the District's future.

The first phase focused on staffing and was completed in July 2017.

The main objective was to provide consistent, round-the-clock staffing for two firestations using volunteer and career staff. The second phase was completed in December 2018 and focused on deployment of staff and firestation locations. The original plan at the time of the merger was to eventually staff from three firestations. Following a detailed evaluation of costs, response times, community risk and demographics, it was determined that the District could be effectively covered from two well-located firestations. This would significantly reduce growing operating costs in the future.

To achieve the goal of two firestations, objectives were developed including the disposal of properties that were no longer needed and acquisition of new property to support the master plan. (See below.)

The third phase focused on detailed

aspects relating to the first two phases: apparatus and equipment (completed in June 2019), incident readiness and response (completed in June 2019), and training and education (completed in February 2020). A plan for community risk reduction and communication was adopted in June.



The three-phase master plan is the foundation for the District's annual goals and objectives. Current goals and objectives can be found on the District's website. The Chief's Monthly Reports show the progress toward achieving them, and can also be found on our website.

New Aid Car

In December 2019, the District took delivery of its new aid unit. It is a former Medic One medic unit that was donated to the District and rebuilt to like-new condition (*with a brand-new chassis*). It was placed into service replacing a 17-year-old unit and is housed at Station 81. The vehicle was paid from equipment reserves funded by your regular tax levy dollars.



New District Resident Property

To provide more consistent service throughout the District, master planning reinforced the need to improve the fire department's presence on the Johnson Point peninsula. To achieve this while minimizing the growth of expenses in the future, the District Master Plan calls for a transition to two well-placed fire stations. The western portion to be covered by the existing North Olympia Fire Station on Boston Harbor Road, and the eastern portion to be covered by a future fire station, more centrally located on Johnson Point.

We have taken the first steps on this plan, selling most of our old satellite stations that are no longer of use and purchasing a residence on five acres of land located at 5501 63rd Avenue NE.

Transitioning to two well-placed stations will require capital investment and years to implement. In the mean time, the 63rd Avenue property will help us temporarily improve service by providing a residence for firefighters who can respond from our remaining satellite station at 8100 Johnson Point Road.

Please visit our website for more information and to view the District Master Plan.



Resident house on 63rd Avenue

The **COVID-19** Challenge

As an EMT in the South Bay Fire District (and nationwide), the pandemic challenge has created significant changes to how we do business.

Since mid-March, the District's firestations have been closed, not only to the public, but to anyone who is not on duty. All non-business contacts have come to a halt. Before a member goes on duty, they must take their temperature and verify that they are not sick.

While on duty and in contact with the public, EMTs wear all forms of personal protective equipment (PPE), including a mask, eye wear, gloves, and sometimes full gowns. Any medical call in which there is potential for exposure to a COVID-19 patient, triggers special safety procedures. If a patient is transported in a District aid unit, special procedures are in place on how the ventilation is set, and how the

vehicle must be cleaned afterwards. Cleaning can easily take over an hour.

Early in the pandemic, PPE items were scarce, and conserving them was a big job. Fortunately, this problem has since decreased.

We have worked hard to minimize the risk and this hard work has paid off. While we have assisted several patients with COVID-19 symptoms, no District responder has had an unprotected exposure to the virus while on duty.

While morale with the team of responders has remained high, it is telling that they recognize the potential for exposures, not only to themselves, but to their family and friends, and it is always on their mind. They know that it is all part of their job to provide excellent service to the public they serve.

JOIN US!

Join us for our monthly Board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 pm, normally held at our South Bay Station 8-1.

During the Covid-19 pandemic and Washington State's phased re-opening approach, meetings may be held virtually.

See our website for link. www.southbayfire.com

South Bay Fire Dept. News

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Grilling Fire Safety



All types of grills pose a risk for fires and burn injuries. According to NFPA statistics, July is the peak month for grilling fires followed by May, June and August. Roughly 9,600 home grill fires were reported per year. The leading causes were a failure to clean the grill, using the grill too close to something that could burn or having things that could catch fire too close to the grill, and unattended grill use. Leaks were the leading cause of gas grill fires. According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 73 percent of consumers grill on the Fourth of July and 58 percent grill on Labor Day.

The following are tips for grillers:

- The grill should be placed well away from the home or deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- The grill should also be a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and trays below
- Never leave your grill unattended.

New Members & Promotions

We are very proud of all our hard working emergency responders!

The South Bay Fire District currently has over seventy volunteers and thirteen career responders who respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Four new career staff were hired in 2020: Welcome to Lieutenant Darrel Clowes (*who joins us from Lee's Summit Fire Department in Missouri, where he was the Captain of Accreditation*), Lieutenant Shawn Mahoney (*who was a previous member and joins us from Central Kitsap Fire where he was a driver*), and Firefighters Ryan Fakkema (*a volunteer with us since 2018, who joins us from Olympic Ambulance*), and Drew Bonser (*also a volunteer with us since 2014, who was a student and stay-at-home Dad*).

We are pleased to congratulate two of our ambitious members who were recently promoted:

Battalion Chief Derek Hall (*who started in 2008*), was promoted from Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Jacob Zvirzdys (*who joined us in 2011*), was promoted from firefighter.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of our Team, please visit our website.



FF Drew Bonser



Lt. Darrel Clowes



BC Derek Hall



FF Ryan Fakkema



Lt. Shawn Mahoney



Lt. Jacob Zvirzdys