

Communications Outreach Team (COT) Monthly Report

July 2026

Events

Attended	Upcoming
7/3 – Boston Harbor Bike Parade 7/4 – Tumwater Independence Day Parade	8/4 – BHA National Night Out 9/12 – South Bay Grange Farmer's Market

Social Media

All Posts	
7/1 – Fireworks laws 7/3 – Structure fires, tender information 7/4 – BHA Bike Parade	7/4 – Road closure 7/10 – Burn Ban 7/29 – In memory of FF Jake Johnson
Most Popular Post	



South Bay Fire Department

Published by Hootsuite · July 3 ·

South Bay Fire responded to several structure fires in our district this past week. Our Engine 81 and Engine 83 crews worked alongside our water tender operators to keep a constant water supply flowing.

Because much of our district is rural and located in unincorporated Thurston County, many of the areas we protect do not have fire hydrants. Instead, we rely on water tenders, large trucks that each carry about 2,500 gallons of water.

When the first engine arrives, firefighters immediately begin attacking the fire. As the engine's water tank starts to run low, another engine or water tender connects to it and continuously supplies more water. This is called a water forward operation.

At one of last week's fires, firefighters had three attack hose lines flowing at the same time, using approximately 450 gallons of water every minute. At that rate, a single 2,500 gallon water tender would be emptied in just over five and a half minutes.

Once a water tender empties its tank, it heads to the nearest hydrant to refill while another tender takes its place. This rotation continues until the fire is under control, creating a continuous water supply even when the nearest hydrant is miles away.

It takes teamwork, coordination, and a lot of water to protect homes in our rural community.

