



# Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News

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## FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER



Chief Brian VanCamp

Our fire department continually works hard to provide consistently high quality round-the-clock emergency medical and fire services from our two primary firestations. These services are delivered by a combination of volunteer and career responders. Availability of volunteers has been declining nationwide due to the increased personal and professional demands and changes in society. This trend was also accelerated in the last two years due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not immune to these changes. To accommodate this, we have had to gradually increase our career staffing over the past few years.

To achieve our service goals, we are expanding the number of career staff at a higher rate than before. We are currently in negotiations with our career bargaining unit members to renew their contract for 2023-2025. Once negotiations are complete, we will understand what the impacts will be for career staff salaries and benefits and include it in our budget planning for 2023.

As part of our annual goal setting and budgeting process, our Board of Fire Commissioners and I adopt an annual business plan ('FD8 Budget Policy Recommendations,' available on our website) that establishes specific goals and objectives. I encourage you to take a look at this document. It lays out three goals, two of which refer specifically to the deployment of responders and planning for budgeting sufficient revenues to pay for them. It is also important to note that the US Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Seattle, June 2021 to June 2022, showed an increase of 10.1%, which indicates rising cost for goods and services that we all must pay for.

### Do You Have What It Takes?

Do you have a strong desire to help others and thrive working in a team environment?

We are recruiting entry level and lateral volunteer Firefighter/EMT's. If you want to become certified as a Firefighter/EMT, we will sponsor the training. If you are already certified, we will put your skills to work. We offer stipend pay, resident housing options, and flexible scheduling.

All candidates must be able to pass a Certified Physical Ability Test (CPAT) and written test. For more information and to apply, visit our website at southbayfire.com.

### New Resident Program

Current room vacancies are available for our new resident program that offers free rent for volunteers providing Firefighter/EMT service. Members live in a resident house located in the district and owned by South Bay Fire Department.

The resident house has a six-person capacity. Volunteers are responsible to pull about six shifts a month with flexible scheduling. Members must be FF1, EMT certified and qualified to drive the apparatus. Call AC LeMay at 360-491-5320 for details or for a private tour.

### JOIN US!

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

We also offer meetings virtually. See our website for link.

[www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com)

We've been accommodating these changes while maintaining revenue at a property tax levy rate of \$1.50 per thousand (of the assessed value of real property) or less. Comparable fire departments in our region have been operating with voter-approved excess levies above that level. Our property tax levy rate has declined to \$1.20 per thousand (for 2023) as property values have increased faster than we are allowed to increase revenue.

The quality of emergency medical and fire services have an impact on the safety of our community and on homeowners insurance rates. Levy proposals provide voters the opportunity to weigh these benefits against the cost.

We will be working over the coming months to inform you about our department's plans for the future so voters can make an educated decision on our proposal for a property tax increase in 2023. You can help us by sending me your questions and comments. What would you like to know about your fire department? Please email me at [vancamp@southbayfire.com](mailto:vancamp@southbayfire.com). I will use your questions to help craft our communications.

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!



On-duty Crew Platoon A

## FREE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

### CPR Training

Compression only CPR training is offered monthly and held at our North Olympia Station 8-3. Dates are listed on our website. Sign-up is required through Medic One. Call 360-704-2790 to sign up.

### 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. [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com)

### Smoke Alarms

Prevention is the best way to keep your home and family safe. To get a free alarm, stop by our South Bay Station to pick one up.

### Covid-19 Tests

To get a free Covid test, stop by our South Bay Station to pick one up.

## No Outdoor Burning July 16th - September 30th

Residents are encouraged to use alternatives to outdoor burning, such as chipping, grinding, or composting. For more information, please contact the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency at: (360) 539-7610 or visit their website at [www.orcaa.org](http://www.orcaa.org).



### BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

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## FIRE WON'T WAIT. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE! FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 9 - 15, 2022

Each year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) promotes Fire Prevention Week with a particular theme. This year the theme is "**Fire won't wait. Plan your escape!**"

In addition to making sure you have working smoke alarms installed throughout your home, it's important to make a fire escape plan for you and your family *before* an incident occurs. Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes or less to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning. (*Pick up a free smoke alarm from our main South Bay Station.*)

### Tips for Planning Your Escape

- Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with all your family members at least twice a year! Practice both daytime and nighttime drills.
- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Pick an outside meeting place that is a safe distance from your home where everyone can meet.
- Reduce the risk of trips and falls during an escape by removing clutter and having a safe path out of your home. Make sure all windows and doors can open in an emergency.
- For elderly - keep your walker, scooter, cane, or wheelchair near where you sleep to make sure you can reach it quickly.
- Keep eyeglasses, cell phone, and a flashlight by your bed to reach them quickly in an emergency.
- If you cannot escape safely, keep your door shut, place a towel or blanket at the bottom of the door and stand near the window for emergency responders to reach you. Call 911 to let the fire department know you are inside the home.

For printable Escape Plan documents, visit our website at [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com). You can also visit the NFPA website at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org)

