



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8 South Bay Fire Department News

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Spring 2023

SOUTH BAY FIRE CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY!



The District is celebrating its 70th anniversary! South Bay Volunteer Fire Department (Fire District 8) was formed by a group of neighbors in April of 1953. The concerned volunteers began with 35 members and a loaned 1939 Ford pickup truck with a pressurized water tank in the back. The school bus barn at the old South Bay Elementary School served as the first fire station and volunteers responded to a grand total of 15 fire calls that year.

That same year voters also approved the creation of the North Olympia Volunteer Fire Department (Fire District 7), to provide fire protection for the rural community in the Boston Harbor area. The first fire station was located near the Gull Harbor Mercantile with a leased fire engine and two dozen volunteers.

On January 1, 2015, Fire District 7 merged into Fire District 8. This was a momentous event that culminated after a long-term effort to consolidate the two fire districts.

Today the South Bay Fire Department is made up of over 35 volunteers and 22 career staff, administered by a Board of five Fire Commissioners. We also have two District Chaplains.

Our District serves over 13,000 residents within its 31.4 square mile area and our call volume exceeds 1300 calls per year. We have two staffed fire stations in the district, each housing a pumper, water tender and aid unit. Crews respond from our South Bay Station 8-1 and North Olympia Station 8-3. There is also an un-staffed fire station on Johnson Point.

Information about the legacies of both North Olympia and South Bay is available for viewing on the District's website.



Proudly serving Northeast Thurston County since 1953

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Firefighter Devin McCosh

The South Bay Fire Department is proud to announce that we have hired two new career firefighters!

Welcome Devin McCosh and Ernest Smith!

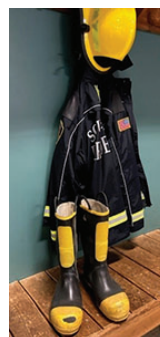
Devin has been a volunteer responder with us since 2019. Ernest was a volunteer responder with another department prior to being hired with us.

They began their career positions with us in February 2023. Both are currently attending Fire academy and are set to graduate on June 3rd. Upon graduation, they will both begin working on shifts and responding to emergency calls with their new teams!



Firefighter Ernest Smith

We Have Boots That Will Fit You!



No matter what shoes you wear to work, we have boots that will fit you.

Volunteer with the South Bay Fire Department in your free time. We have flexible shifts to accommodate your current work schedule and we provide training to become a certified Firefighter/EMT.

Visit our website for more information at southbayfire.com

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.

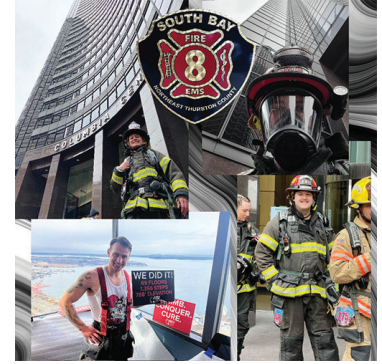
Home Address Markers - We can't help you if we can't find you. If you need a free home address marker, please call us or order one on our website. www.southbayfire.com

FIREFIGHTERS' STAIRCLIMB

On March 12th, four members of the South Bay Fire Department competed in the 32nd annual Firefighter Stair Climb at the Columbia tower in Seattle. All proceeds from this fundraiser raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to further the research for a cure for blood born cancers. This event involves climbing 69 stories, (1,356 steps and 788 feet of vertical elevation) of the Seattle Columbia Tower, in full firefighting turnout gear (weighing over 60 lbs), while also carrying an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) on your back; breathing only from the bottle, exactly as a firefighter would in a house fire.

The climb in Seattle is the largest Firefighter competition fundraiser in the country and the world's largest on-air stair climb, drawing a significant following as such.

This year, over 2,000 participants made up of career, volunteer or retiree firefighters, climbed the second tallest skyscraper on this side of the Mississippi. This year's event raised \$2,216,394. Since its inception in 1991, the event has raised over \$20 million. Members associated with the climb this year are honored to have represented the Department with such pride. Our team was able to raise \$2,654.



Clockwise from top: Allie Choate; Kyle Chiatovich; Jake Zvirzdys and Nick Van Kirk.

South Bay Fire Dept. News

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Chief Brian VanCamp

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

PROPOSITION 1 BALLOT MEASURE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, AUGUST 1ST

Our fire department works hard to provide consistent high-quality round-the-clock emergency medical and fire services from our two primary staffed fire stations. All fire agencies are facing significant cost increases due to declining volunteerism, COVID-19 impacts, and inflation. For many years, we have funded our service with a property tax levy rate of up to \$1.50 per thousand of the assessed real property value. 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. To keep up with growing costs, we are preparing a Primary Election ballot measure that would authorize a return to the \$1.50 rate effective in 2024.

On April 11th, the Board of Fire Commissioners adopted Resolution 2023-004 which authorizes the Thurston County Elections Division to place "Proposition 1" on the ballot for the Primary Election to be held on August 1st. If passed by voters in the District, it would allow the District to collect up to \$1.50 per thousand dollars in assessed value of property.

The quality of emergency medical and fire services has an impact on the safety of our community and on homeowner's insurance rates. Levy ballot measures provide voters the opportunity to weigh these benefits against the cost.

The Board of Fire Commissioners hosted a public forum on March 30th to explain the District's master planning and the ballot measure; a recording of this forum can be viewed on the District's website. We have also posted information on our website and have brochures explaining the purpose of this ballot measure. If you have any questions or need further information, please email me at vancamp@southbayfire.com or give me a call at 360-491-5320.

You can learn more about our plans on our department website. Go to Southbayfire.com and select About Us/ District Direction.