



SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

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From the Chief's Desk



Fire Chief Al Church

In the early morning hours of a foggy and icy November morning in 2011, Firefighter Wynn Loiland was on-duty serving the community as a member of the Engine 66 crew which operates out of south Des Moines/north Federal Way. Engine 66 was dispatched to a possible injury-accident involving an overturned vehicle on Interstate 5 that cold and dark morning. While checking and securing the vehicle, thankfully without any citizens injured or trapped, Firefighter Loiland was hit by a separate vehicle that had hit a patch of ice and spun off the freeway out of control.

Wynn's crewmates immediately went into action to help their severely injured crewmate, calling for additional help and initiating lifesaving efforts. He was stabilized and transported by a paramedic unit to Harborview Medical Center, where his life hung in the balance. He had suffered severe injuries and would not regain consciousness for many weeks thereafter, but at least he was alive. Thankfully, due to the rapid work of his crewmates, assistance from Kent Fire Department firefighters, King County Medic One paramedics, and the physicians and nurses at Harborview Medical Center, Wynn survived. However, he suffered permanently disabling injuries.

During this time there was an ongoing vigil by Wynn's wife, Sue, their family and the personnel of South King Fire & Rescue (SKF&R).

Wynn retired in 2012 due to his injuries suffered while serving the communities of Federal Way, Des Moines, and a portion of unincorporated King County within the SKF&R service area. On September 24th, 2013, Wynn was recognized for his service by receiving the first-ever South King Fire & Rescue "Purple Heart" medal, as well as the Military Order of the Purple Heart designated for first responders who are injured or killed in the line-of-duty. These presentations occurred at a Board of Fire Commissioner's meeting attended by many of Wynn's peers, fire chiefs, Representative Roger Freeman, representatives from the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, and his family.

[See From the Chief's Desk page 3]



Free Carbon Monoxide Alarms

SKF&R to use Federal Grant to supply free CO Alarms to seniors and low income residents

As of January 1, 2013, a new state law began requiring carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to be installed in existing residential occupancies. SKF&R obtained a federal grant to help their citizens meet this requirement at reduced or no cost. This grant recoups your federal tax dollars and puts them to use in your community. The grant-funded CO Alarms are targeted towards seniors and those that may otherwise find difficulty in purchasing the alarms on their own, within the SKF&R district. These alarms can cost as much as \$30 depending on the power supply and quality.

To obtain a grant-funded CO Alarm at no cost:

- Email your contact information to coalarm@southkingfire.org. Please include your NAME, HOME ADDRESS, and PHONE NUMBER in the email and you will be contacted, or
- Fill-in and cut out the form on the back page and mail it to our headquarters' station, 31617 1st Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003, or
- Stop by our headquarters' station **during the week of October 21st** (Monday-Through Friday; 9am – 4pm only), or
- Fill-in and cut out the form and drop it off at any of our other fire stations and it will be routed to our Community Affairs Office for processing.

CO alarms are only available while supplies last, limited to one per residence. They should be installed outside the home's main sleeping area (normally a hallway outside the bedrooms).

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen or smelled, and can kill a person in minutes. CO has killed over 1,000 Washington residents between 1990 and 2005. In the aftermath of the December 2006 windstorm, over 300 people were treated at hospital emergency rooms for CO poisoning, and eight people died. Generators in garages or near air intakes and the use of charcoal or gas grills indoors, are common causes of CO poisoning during power outages. ■



Fire Commissioner Chairman Bill Gates speaks to a group of volunteers at a Habitat for Humanity 9-1-1 Memorial event



A group photo of our new recruits hired April 1st - please turn to the middle of this newsletter to learn a little about each one

Chief of Operations



Community Support Equals Fire and First Aid Services

Chief Ed Plumlee

On September 4th, 2013 Public Health Seattle and King County reported that, “the survival rate from cardiac arrest in King County has reached an all-time high of 57%...” Most other parts of the nation have survival rates that are about 10%. Why?

We live in a unique community in terms of our emergency response in helping others. When I say “our response,” I mean you, each one who lives and works in and around SKF&R. Why? Because you are not afraid to help others, even strangers. Whether it is helping a person with a medical problem or reporting a fire, you are the reason that our fire and emergency medical system is superior. You also support a fire department that is growing to meet the needs of our community and the challenges of our changing times. From beginning to end, our response system is a direct reflection of your participation.

For people who experience a cardiac event outside the hospital, our region has a high survival rate because you get involved. Here is an example: a young man suffered a cardiac arrest (his heart and breathing had stopped). A bystander witnessed the event and called 9-1-1 for help. The dispatcher assisted the bystander, the “true” first responder, with instructions on how to perform CPR. The bystander had also been taught CPR at school. Firefighters arrived within minutes, took over care, and defibrillated (delivered an electrical shock) to this young man.

Within three minutes of the fire department’s arrival, the man who had been in cardiac arrest regained consciousness and asked, “What happened?” About that time King County Medic One paramedics arrived, provided advanced treatment, and transported this patient to a local hospital where an expert team awaited their arrival. The sequence of events leading up to this type of save never ceases to amaze me.

The bystander's quick action undoubtedly helped save this man's life. Recognizing a problem, then calling and assisting are the most important links in the chain of events that lead to the firefighter's response. Your response is immediate. This is why you are so important to our emergency system.

Over the past 60 years, our fire department has adapted to the changing needs of our community. Today we have fewer fires and fire fatalities. There are three primary reasons for this: one is that if fires do start, there are professional firefighters in place to stop them; second is the emphasis on fire codes that provide fire control systems like fire alarms and sprinkler systems that reduce or prevent fires from spreading; third is the ability to educate our community in fire-safe behavior.

SKF&R is a fire district that serves approximately 150,000 people in the greater Federal Way, Des Moines and unincorporated King County areas. The fire department responds to approximately 16,000 alarms per year. These alarms include fires, first aid, hazardous materials and rescues, with the majority being medical emergencies.

We are proud to join with you in providing the very best emergency care possible. The save rate of 57% is a testament to the effectiveness of our entire response capability.

It is sometimes difficult to get people to think about their emergency services until they need them. There is a good chance that you or someone in your family, or one of your friends, has used fire department services. Ask them what they thought. I encourage you to contact the fire department if you have questions or input. The web page at southkingfire.org is informative, and provides you with contact information.

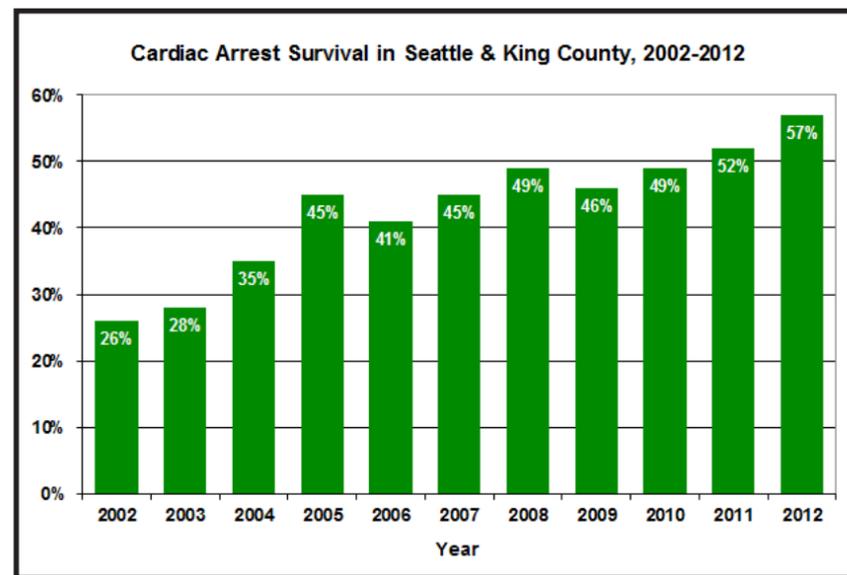
This isn't the only important issue that you must consider, but it may be one of the only services that depends on your participation from beginning to end. ■



My name is **Greg Garka**. I was born and raised in Arlington. I have enjoyed playing sports my entire life and was fortunate enough to play football in college where I earned a degree in communication studies. I now enjoy spending time with my wife and two kids doing things outdoors. I am excited to be a part of SKF&R and look forward to serving our community.



My name is **Garrett Parker**. I am from Bellingham. I enjoy skiing in the winter and wakeboarding in the summer. I recently graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in business management and currently own a lawn and landscape business.



My name is **Samantha Petrich**. I was born and raised in Chehalis. I enjoy anything that has to do with fitness or outdoor activities. I earned a BA in exercise science from Central Washington University.

SKF&R Re-opens Aid Car that was closed in 2011



Chairman of the Fire Commission Board Bill Gates (center) with Fire Chief Al Church on his right and King County Councilman Pete von Reichbauer on his left, join on-coming and off-going crews at shift change Monday morning to celebrate A64's return to full-time status

SKF&R celebrated the re-opening of Station 64's aid car (A64) July 1st. Fire Chief Al Church noted in the last newsletter (that) "...we strongly anticipate that returning our closed aid car back to full-time service will dramatically assist with improving response times..."

The loss of A64 in 2011 affected areas of SKF&R from Des Moines to Federal Way as fire stations typically back-up their neighboring stations when multiple calls occur at the same time. Losing one unit in that process meant that response times would increase throughout the entire district. The data from 2012 shows that the reduction of staff positions resulted

in significantly longer emergency response times, primarily related to full structural-fire responses. The department strongly anticipates that returning the closed aid car back to full-time service will dramatically assist with improving response times. Aid cars respond to all emergency calls including fires and EMS. Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Bill Gates, said "Our board worked hard in finding solutions for our community. Thank you to our citizens for your support. We will continue to do our part to provide you the high level of emergency service that you have expected and seen for the past 64 years." ■

[From the Chief's Desk continued from page 1]

As Wynn's fire chief, I was very proud and thankful to be present at the ceremony on September 24th to thank Wynn for his many years of effort, and to give Wynn and his wife Sue, the first SKF&R Purple Heart. Wynn's unselfish attitude towards putting service before self truly exemplifies that which the fire service, and every member of SKF&R, is all about. Our members put their lives on the line every time they report for duty. And, for that, I am incredibly proud of each one of them. As citizens, you should be proud of them as well, in that they put our Mission Statement to work every day and in every way:

WE HELP PEOPLE by responding with professional fire department services

That statement says it all. And it was living up to that statement which nearly cost Wynn his life. I would be remiss if I did not also mention those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our community:

Firefighter Jon Moncrief
Firefighter Gene Parsons

Firefighter Doug Waller
Firefighter Fred Arves

I ask that every citizen remember that no matter when or where you may need help, firefighters are always ready and available to assist even if it means risking their lives. Those who criticize the department, and those who are simply unaware, are truly unaware of the incredible force that stands ready to serve... like Wynn, John, Doug, Gene, and Fred. What an incredible fire department, and what an incredible group of members willing to put service before self. I am humbled to be the leader of such an incredible team!!!

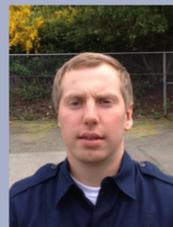
Stay safe and have a GREAT Holiday Season! ■



Dr. Allen D Church, EdD
Fire Chief/Administrator



Hello. My name is **Christian DuBois**. I was born in Kenai, Alaska and raised in Port Townsend. I was a volunteer firefighter/EMT since 2010 at East Jefferson Fire & Rescue, until being hired on with SKF&R. I enjoy playing baseball, water sports and staying physically active.



My name is **David Mataftin, Jr.** I am from Des Moines and currently live there with my wife. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling and being outdoors.



My name is **Scott McLaughlin**. I was born and raised in Burien and currently live in Des Moines. I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I look forward to serving the citizens of SKF&R.

An Evening in the Life of a Firefighter

(Part 3 of a 4-part series ~ see our website for Parts 1 & 2)

Ever wondered what a day in the life of a firefighter is really like? The following is an evening in my life many shifts ago. Sixteen emergency responses will happen today. I won't go into details on each call for many reasons (you can read about my morning and afternoon in the last two newsletters at southkingfire.org). Nonetheless, I love what I do and wouldn't have it any other way.

...We wrap up late afternoon training with our rookie and head back to the fire station. Our rookie is cooking dinner for us tonight. He's really excited to treat us to an old family recipe that his grandmother gave to him on a recent visit. We are fortunate that he planned ahead and went shopping early this morning on his way in to work. If need be, we often will find time during the day to run to the neighborhood store to shop for dinner like everyone else. We pool our own money and chip in for meals. Going to the store is fun for us. We may leave a firefighter at the engine to give a child a tour or answer questions, and at other times we may take a blood pressure for a senior citizen. This makes us feel more a part of the community, and we enjoy it. Our citizens always comment on how they like seeing us in public. Of course, we're always ready to respond no matter where we are at.

With today's shopping done, we clean up our equipment after the drill while our rookie starts cooking his prized meal. He's minutes away from completion when we're alerted to call

number eight, a structure fire.

We dash for the fire engine with our minds already reeling with what lies ahead for each of us. Some will command, others will drive and pump the fire engine. Most will be tasked with implementing tactical tasks and assignments, all things we're trained to do. We don't think about the famous dinner that's probably lost now, although all the cooking equipment shuts off automatically when the station bells go off.

Our dispatch gives us the brief known details: an apartment complex with flames visible and spreading to other apartments; all occupants not accounted for. More details will come along the way. The dispatch center itself is a fine orchestration. Within seconds from when the call connects, a silent second dispatcher is alerting nearby response units and starting them towards the emergency well before the call is finished. Sometimes the caller will hear sirens before they even hang up the phone.

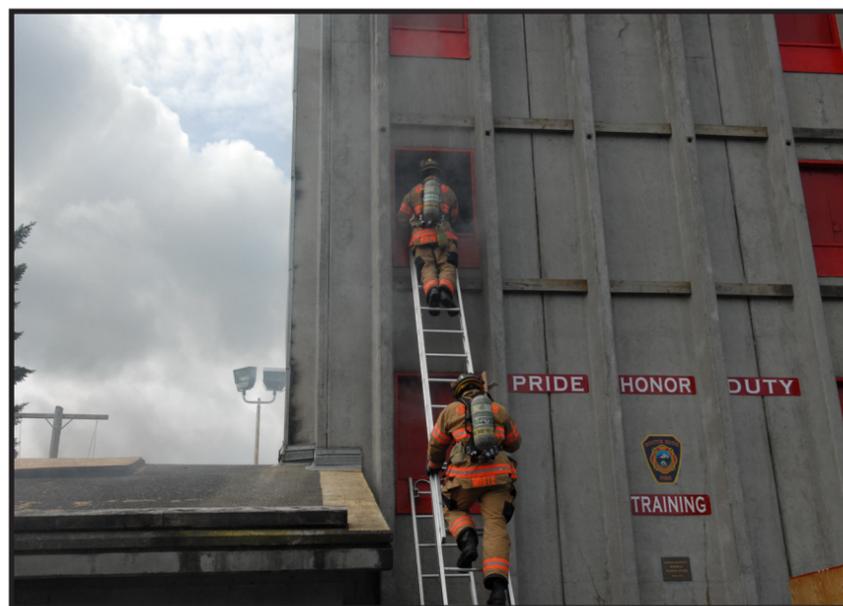
So, we're all on the way: three fire engines, one ladder truck, an aid car, and a battalion chief. All are coming from predetermined fire stations surrounding the address of the emergency. We train well for this scenario; everyone knows their role before we leave the barn (a fire station term held over from horse days!). That role depends on which order we arrive in, based upon the address of the call. We know we will be first-in on this one.

Our minds race with all the possibilities we might encounter once we arrive. We receive more information on the way from dispatch...people are trapped. Our battalion chief will command the incident, but he won't arrive first, so we have to set up the initial strategy, tactics, and actions. Rescue will be our top priority. The question will be whether to rescue the trapped occupants directly or protect them by fighting the fire first. With limited staffing and apparatus in the first few minutes at the scene, we have to make a decision based upon what we see in the first few seconds. Because we have a ladder crew right behind us we know we can do two things at once, and that's exactly what we end up doing.

We arrive to see a 3-story apartment building with fire in the shared stairwell and two people yelling from a third floor window. They're somewhat protected because their front door is closed and the fire has not entered their apartment. We give a quick report over the radio to paint a picture for the other incoming crews and then give instructions for the next-arriving units. We're going to establish our own water supply from a nearby fire hydrant and attack the fire in the stairwell to prevent it from entering the occupied apartment.

When the ladder truck crew arrives, they will rescue the trapped occupants using a ground ladder. A minute later our battalion chief arrives, assumes

[See An Evening in the Life page 4]



Firefighters training for rescuing citizens at our Training Center



Residents in the Greater Federal Way and Des Moines areas will receive enhanced public safety alerts through the newly released version of the public safety app – CodeRED Mobile Alert. The app is provided through South King Fire & Rescue’s existing contract with Emergency Communications Network, LLC. The new version of the app, which is a free download for iPhone and Android subscribers, will allow City/County residents the ability to view all active alerts for the entire country. This ability was previously limited to a 500-mile radius of the subscriber’s current location and has since been expanded to a 5,000-mile radius. As subscribers navigate to view alerts outside of the area, they now have the option to simply tap the compass icon at the bottom right-hand corner of the screen to return them to their current location. The enhanced app features group badge icons on the subscriber’s setting page to alert the user to select the types of subgroup notifications available. The enhancement was made to draw attention to the subgroups of alerts available as part of the CodeRED Mobile Alert app’s highly customizable settings. To select subgroups, the user must tap on the icon, which will reveal additional alerts available. Residents who would like access to the enhanced CodeRED Mobile Alert must update their current CodeRED Mobile Alert app. For iPhone subscribers, the user may visit their App Store and search for Updates. For Android subscribers, the user will receive a notification that an upgrade is available for the app. The app is available for a free download on the iTunes store and Google Play. For more information or to download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, visit <http://ecnetwork.com/mobile/getitnow.html>.



Hi, my name is **Tyrel Rose**. I currently reside in Puyallup. I spent the last seven years serving in the US Army. I enjoy backpacking and camping around the Pacific Northwest.



Volunteer Dick Body in antique fire engine with his friend



Station 67 B-Shift crew poses with Ladder 64 for the October page of the City of Des Moines 2014 calendar

Visit our website at southkingfire.org



STATION 62 - HEADQUARTERS
 31617 1st Avenue South, Federal Way, WA
 98003; 253-839-6234
www.southkingfire.org

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Form (see information on page 1)

Date:	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single-family residence <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Des Moines <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Way <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated King County	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any occupant(s) age 65 and over	
Waiver of Liability: In consideration of the undersigned participating in the Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm program, the undersigned, in order to participate in the program, accepts all liability whatsoever for the CO alarm and holds harmless South King Fire & Rescue. The undersigned also agrees to clean and test the alarm to maintain it in proper working condition as listed below (per manufacturer’s recommendations): 1. Test your CO alarm weekly. 2. Clean or vacuum the device monthly. 3. Replace battery immediately when indicated.	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF , the undersigned has executed this waiver at Federal Way, WA on the date noted above.	
Signature: _____ (Must be 18 years of age to participate)	
Office Use Only:	
# alarms installed or given: _____ Tracking #: _____	

An Evening in the Life *(continued from page 3)*

incident command, and accounts for all the firefighters on scene and those still coming in. He sets up a backup fire-attack-line and establishes a company to provide rapid rescue for any fire company that gets into unintended trouble. The ladder company rescues the uninjured couple from the trapped apartment and is given a new assignment to provide ventilation to the fire units in a coordinated fire attack. This will expel the superheated gases and smoke so that fire attack crews can make a safe entry.

All goes according to plan. The fire is knocked down quickly and safely for our crews. Along the way, other chief officers have arrived and taken support roles as safety officer, rehabilitation officer, and public information officer. We work with apartment management to secure the building, recover personal items for the tenants, and make sure everyone has a place to sleep later tonight. This will impact a lot of people for many weeks. We’re just happy no one, including firefighters, was hurt

tonight. There’s a lot of damage to the building, but we call it a success. We’ve been at this scene now for three hours.

Back at the fire station there’s been a flurry of activity too. A duty chief responded directly to our station to manage the rest of the district while multiple units and stations were engaged in this emergency. Our station is a key station (more central to the fire district) so an outlying station crew is moved in to cover. Fortunately, the crew packages what is left of the rookie’s dinner (after a bit of sampling for themselves!) and puts it in the fridge. Maybe we’ll enjoy it for leftovers later tonight or on our next shift.

As we are released from the fire scene once the investigation is done, we still must return to the station to clean our gear, hose, and equipment. There is still much to do and we have a little less than half a shift remaining...

Join me next newsletter when I take you through the rest of the night and into the early morning hours of tomorrow morning. ■