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THE FIRST RESPONDER

A South King Fire & Rescue Publication

Serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



We are pleased to announce that South King Fire & Rescue has been chosen by the Advancing Leadership class of 2016 to teach "Hands-Only" CPR! This free partnership event, called Save-a-Life-Saturday, will be held on June 4th at the Commons Mall in Federal Way from 10 am – 1 pm.

Did you know that over a thousand times each day someone in the United States suffers from sudden cardiac arrest? Sadly, without intervention, 90% of those individuals will die. The good news is, survivability is greatly increased when someone recognizes the need for CPR, calls 911, and performs hands-only CPR! Here in King County, the odds of surviving this type of event are much greater, due in part to people knowing how to perform this life-saving action.

At Save-a-Life Saturday, learn how to perform CPR in a relaxed environment. Instructors fluent in four languages (Korean, Spanish, Russian and English) will be available to train all willing ages within our diverse community. Instructors will also demonstrate how to perform CPR for those who have physical limitations and are unable to easily get on their knees. This important training will teach you what to do in an emergency when "somebody should do something!"

Joining the fire department and Advancing Leadership Team, representatives from other agencies will be onsite to provide information about community services available in our area. Participants and showcases include: The Community Emergency Responder Team, Shockingly Simple (all about public AED's), Emergency Preparedness, and other great resources.

There will also be an opportunity to donate blood, tour a fire engine, and have your photo taken with your firefighters!

Bring your family and join us Saturday, June 4th at the Commons Mall for just a few minutes between 10 am – 1 pm. Learn how you can be a lifesaver!

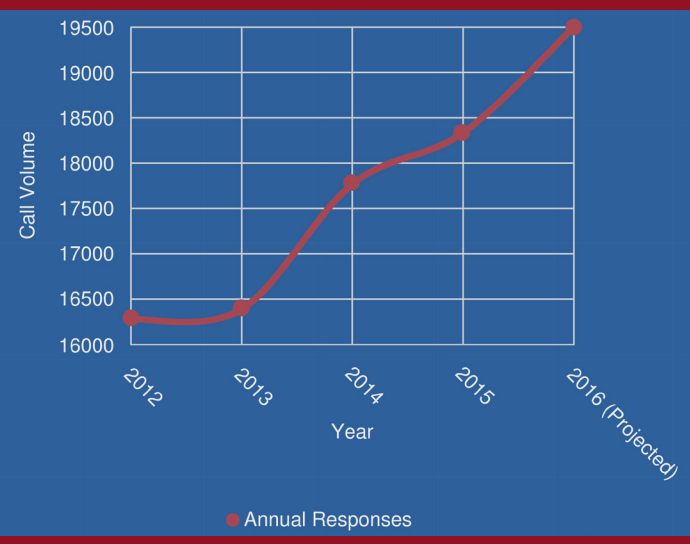
Please note that this training is not a certified class and does not meet work requirements.



SKFR participated in Touch-a-Truck event



Response Snapshot



SKFR continues to see a significant increase in emergency responses over the past several years as demonstrated in the graph above. We expect to exceed 19,500 calls in 2016.

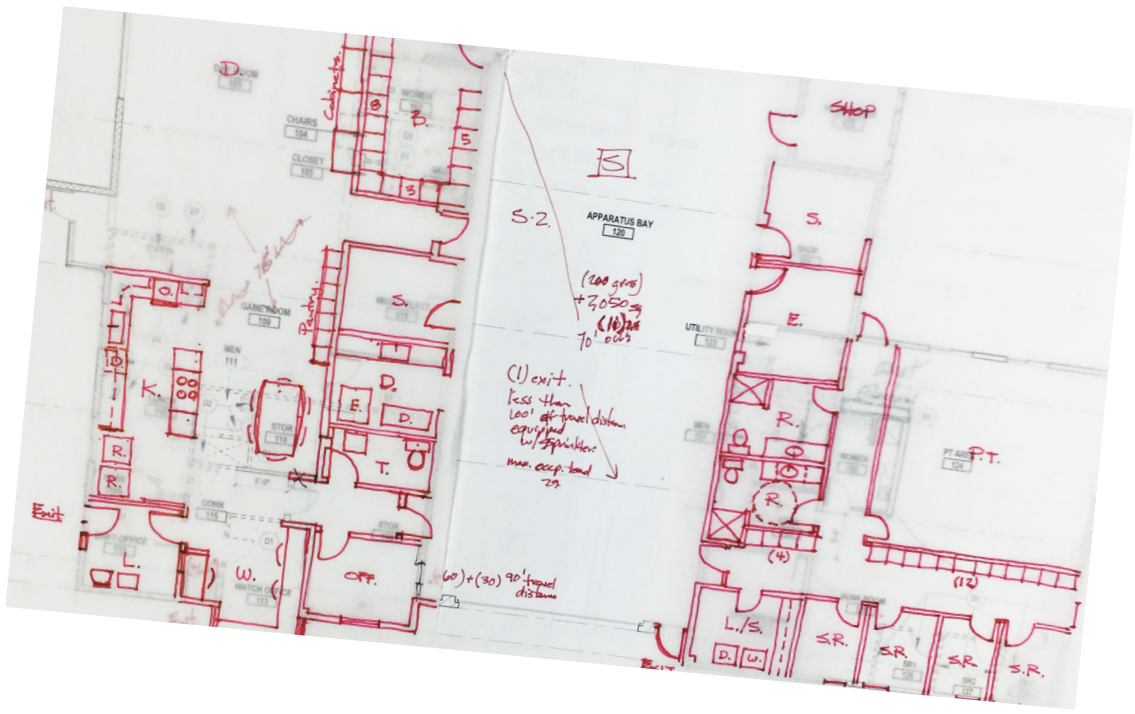
American Heart Association®
life is why™

70% of sudden cardiac arrests happen in the home or with a loved one nearby - for more information visit cpr.heart.org

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SAFETY IMPROVEMENT BOND

In previous assessments, structural engineers determined that in a design level earthquake, all our aging fire stations would collapse. In light of this information, your Fire District Commissioners made it a top priority to seek voter-approved funding needed to make seismic improvements and ensure fire stations can operate and respond.



In November 2015, voters within South King Fire & Rescue's (SKFR) service area approved a $39M bond to remodel fire stations, purchase new apparatus, and upgrade outdated information technology systems.

Progress

SKFR is making significant progress in the design, specification and expenditures of these voter-approved bond funds. The construction designs have not changed too much from their original concepts established in 2009. Despite the lapse in time, we are pleased that the preliminary estimates for facilities and equipment are coming in lower than projected. We are paying very close attention to costs and are staying within the budgeted amounts. It is very important as these improvements need to last for 20+ years.

The design phase is the most important aspect of any project, and most of our efforts the past six months have been centered around that. If we are diligent in planning, we can minimize problems that cause delays. The first two major facility projects will move to the permit phase by the middle of July 2016. Other improvements, such as a new roof on Des Moines fire station 67, will begin this summer.

In addition to facility upgrades, the bond funds new fire engines, aid cars, ladder trucks, and staff vehicles. These critical apparatus are used to deliver quick, helpful, and professional service to our community. Currently, the fire engines we use to respond were purchased between 1991 and 1995. While we have taken excellent care of them, they are reaching end-of-life and are typically replaced at 16-18 years; several of ours will be over 22 years old when they are finally replaced. A similar situation exists with most of our vehicle fleet. We are actively creating specifications for aid cars and fire engines and have already purchased four fire investigation vehicles.

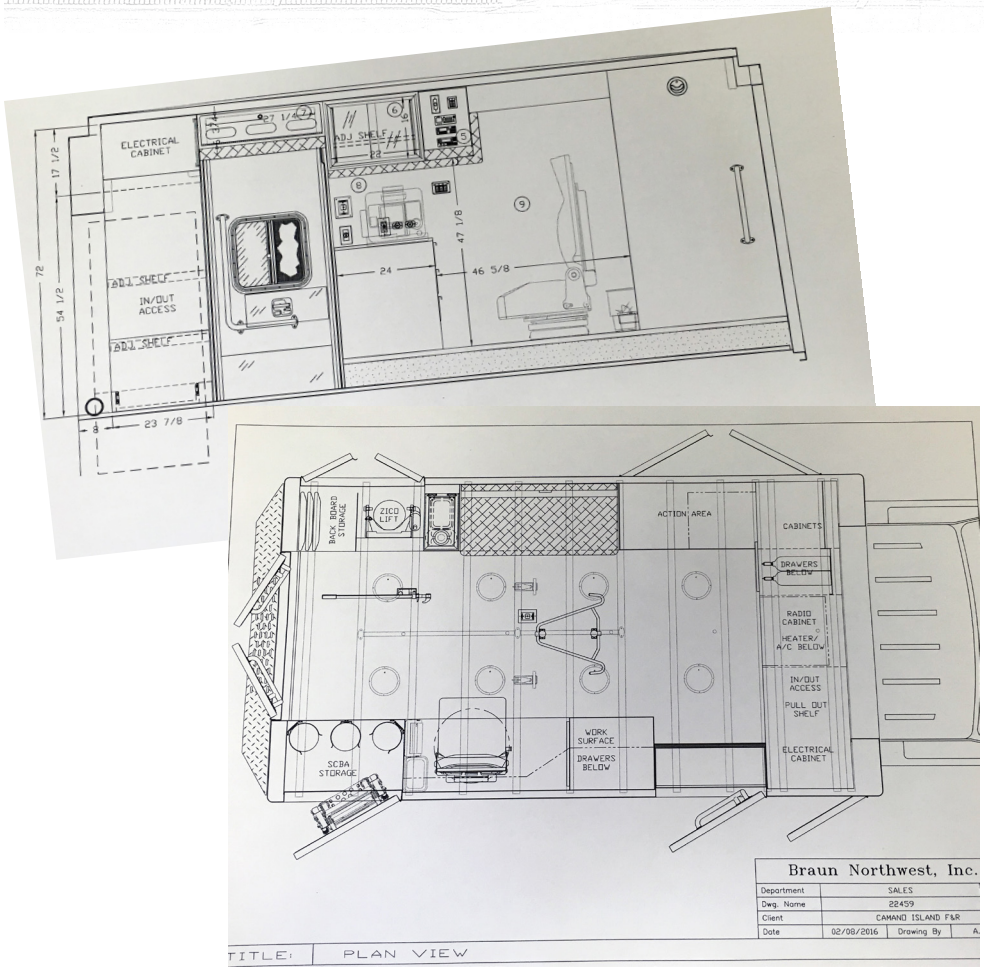


Projects and Operational Impacts

While construction projects are underway, we must maintain our response time standards. SKFR is a very busy fire department with one response approximately every 27 minutes. Keeping emergency vehicles positioned to respond is our number one priority. By spreading out the construction schedule , we can minimize response impacts. With this in mind, we plan to only have two fire stations under construction at any one time. We are also considering the impact to our employees who must live and work during the inconveniences of construction and remodels.

Moving Forward

There are many things to do as we begin purchasing equipment, retrofitting, and remodeling stations while still providing first-class emergency services. Your fire department is ready for the challenges and we look forward to the improvements. With continued support from our community, we can now ensure that our fire stations will remain standing during an earthquake, that our apparatus will respond safely, and the technology used to get us there is current and reliable.



Construction schedule subject to change

PROFILE - THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Residential oil tank decommission with required inspection by the Fire Marshal's Office

We all know the fire department responds to 911 calls, but did you know firefighters also work every day to prevent fire and medical emergencies? These lesser known preventive efforts are led by your Fire Marshal's Office. This division is staffed by the Fire Marshal and six Deputy Fire Marshals who have specialty training and certifications beyond the standard firefighter training. One of their primary responsibilities is to ensure that all new buildings are engineered and constructed to be fire safe and that they are maintained safely through Fire Code compliance inspections.

Our plans examiner reviews building plans in cooperation with city building departments to ensure that every structure complies with the Fire Code. Fire sprinkler and fire alarm plans are also reviewed prior to system installation. Once installed, our staff inspects these systems and witnesses first-hand the required testing to ensure they will function, as designed, in the event of a fire.

Once buildings are approved and occupied, our firefighters inspect them on a regular basis to ensure they remain safe. Exit doors are checked to confirm they are not locked or obstructed, fire extinguishers are checked to make sure they are present and properly serviced, and electrical wiring is examined to ensure it is not damaged or overloaded.

Despite our efforts, fires still occur. When fires happen, fire investigators are tasked with determining the origin and cause. If a fire is caused by an arsonist, we aid in the criminal investigation. Whether an accident or intentionally set, determining the cause and circumstances are important steps in preventing future fires.

Fires started by youngsters are also a problem that demands attention. Our officers have been trained to help children and families struggling with this issue. The process begins with an interview of the child and parent or caregiver to help determine the cause of the behavior. Many times children do not understand the potential harm and damage from what they see as a "small" fire. In some cases, the fire-setting may be a symptom of a larger concern that requires counseling for the child and family. Our staff provides education when necessary, and makes referrals to counseling services when appropriate.

If you know of a child who is playing with fire, make sure that access to matches and lighters is restricted. To report a problem, please call 253-946-7348 and ask a Deputy Fire Marshal for assistance.



Vince Faranda, Deputy Fire Marshal investigating a fire

SPOTLIGHT - OPEN HOUSE

Every May we look forward to welcoming the community to our SKFR Open House, a fun and growing tradition that connects citizens with first responders from multiple agencies.

Highlights this year for the 900+ attendees included: watching as an emergency helicopter landed at the fire station; experiencing the power of chemical reactions (courtesy of the SKFR Hazmat Team); and watching the extrication team demonstrate their skills using hydraulic rescue tools on wrecked vehicles.



"Pluggie" the talking fire hydrant robot visited with the kids at Open House

The police department bomb squad and K-9 unit "secured ☺" the event and Lakehaven Utility District showed how they keep the water safe and flowing.

Kids learned swimming safety tips from the Water Rescue Team and even tried on firefighter gear. There was a lot to do and see.

Make plans to join us next year!









Airlift Northwest critical emergency helicopter drops in for the show (above); a HazMat Team demonstration (left); rescuing a person from a car using the Jaws-of-Life (upper right); aerial view of the event (lower right)



With dry weather around the corner, please remember to...

- **Dispose of cigarette butts in a proper container. Your fire department responds to many bark/brush fires that are preventable.**
- **Place ashes from your BBQ or fire pit in a metal container away from any object to keep your families and property safe.**
- **Visit *pscleanair.org* for information regarding outdoor recreational fires. Burning of yard waste and land-clearing debris is not allowed at any time in our jurisdiction.**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Happy spring and summer to all of our citizens in the South King Fire & Rescue (SKFR) service area.

As I enter my 39th year as a member of SKFR and my 16th year as your Fire Chief/Administrator, I am thankful to continue serving this community.

I am pleased to announce this coming June we will embark on a major update to our Strategic Leadership Plan (SLP) with a significant number of community leaders working collaboratively with department members and the Board of Commissioners to establish a new path forward. This process will play an important role as we look at future needs established by our new SLP. Our dedicated team is focused on using your tax dollars responsibly to prepare your fire department for the future.

To address future needs, we recently submitted a federal grant request to replace our emergency response boat that protects the waterways between Federal Way and Des Moines. This grant request is supported by Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Congressmen Adam Smith and James McDermott.

Once again, I want to thank our citizens for their continued support. We take our Mission Statement to heart:

We help people by responding with professional Fire Department services



Dr. Allen D Church, EdD
Fire Chief/Administrator

COMMUNITY EVENT

SAVE-A-LIFE SATURDAY



when
Saturday, June 4th
10AM - 1 PM

where
The Commons Mall
Center Mall, outside Macy's
1928 S. Commons
Federal Way, WA 98003

facebook.com/savealifesaturday
#savealifesaturday

HANDS-ONLY CPR CAN SAVE LIVES

Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work, or in a public location die because they don't receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. As a bystander, you don't need to be afraid. Your actions can only help!

- Learn hands-only CPR in just 10 minutes
- Free and open to the public
- Children's activities

Classes taught in four languages
Классы будут преподаваться на русском языке
Las clases se imparten en español
수업은 한국어로 제공됩니다

PRESENTED BY: IN COLLABORATION WITH: CHI Franciscan Health, City of Federal Way, South King Fire, Advancing Leadership, South King Firefighters Foundation, South King Fire & Rescue Aid Fund, The Commons at Federal Way

WELCOME ABOARD!



Kelly Salvage
Firefighter



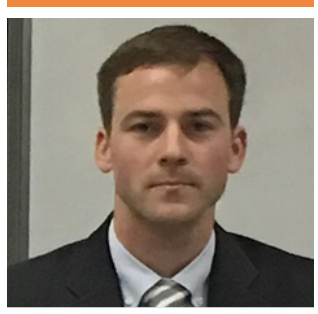
Nick Gullickson
Firefighter



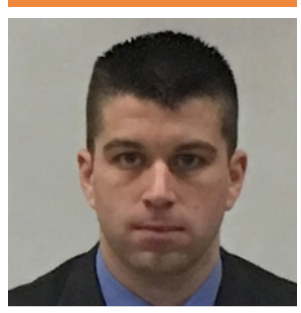
Stefan McPherson
Firefighter



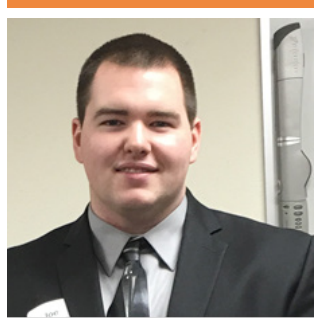
Josh Bellinghausen
Firefighter



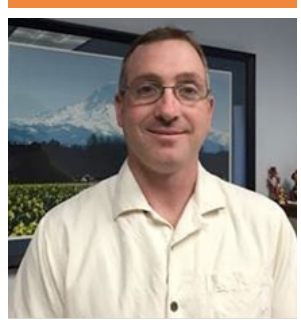
Adam Joyner
Firefighter



Dean Bastin
Firefighter



Joe Stevens
Firefighter



Ken Brumet
Admin Assistant-Fleet/Facilities

SKFR Information:

SKFR provides complimentary blood pressure checks, fire station tours upon appointment, and smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. For further information, contact 253-946-7347 or go to www.southkingfire.org.

STATION 62 - HEADQUARTERS
31617 1st Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003
253-839-6234
Business Hours: 8-4:30 M-F

Administration:

Al Church, Fire Chief/Administrator
Ed Plumlee, Assistant Chief-Bond/Facilities/Fleet
Chuck Kahler, Assistant Chief-Operations
Vic Pennington, Assistant Chief-Training
Joe Ganem, CIO-Business Operations
Mary Stevens, Human Resources Manager
Delia Fjelstad, Finance Manager
Mitchell Lee, IT Manager