Federal Way Fire Department

31617 1st Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003

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Fall 2005

Celebrate Safety Saturday in Federal Way and Des Moines

Series of Open Houses Featuring Helmet Fits and Child Car Seat Checks Begins September 17

Come one, come all! There's a little bit for everyone as fire house doors open every Saturday starting September 17 through October 8, and firefighters in Federal Way and Des Moines host a series of safety activities throughout the district.

The main activities during the open houses focus on child safety. For a complete listing of times and locations, see the schedule to the right.

At the morning open houses, passenger safety takes center stage as car seat technicians conduct free child car seat checks, ensuring everyone gets a safe ride home. Technicians from the South King County Child Passenger Safety Coalition provide expert advice to parents on how to properly secure their child. Car seats are checked first-come, first served.

In the afternoon, the focus turns to preventing head injuries. Both children and adults can get a custom-fit bike helmet for just $7. Multi-sport style helmets are available for $10. If you already own a helmet, trained fitters can check and adjust the fit as necessary.

The open house on September 24 will serve double duty as Federal Way partners with State Farm for their nationwide "Child Safety Day" car seat check. State Farm volunteers will assist during the three-hour event, held at Federal Way Fire Headquarters.



Come join the firefighters at your local fire station for Safety Saturday.

Additional activities at all locations include skill stations focused on driver safety, water safety, fire safety and burn prevention.

But the fun doesn't end there. Fire enthusiasts will also get a chance to shoot water from a hoseline, climb aboard a fire engine and tour an aid car.

With a potential merge pending with the Des Moines fire district, fire officials wanted the community to get to know their local firefighters and fire stations.

"During emergencies, we're invited into our citizens' homes. The open houses are a nice way to invite citizens into ours," said Al Church, Fire Chief.

To encourage citizen involvement, special ballot boxes will be set up where participants can cast their vote to help name the fire station closest to them.

"We've done our best to serve the greater Federal Way community for more than 50 years. Providing a program like this is just one way for us to say thank you. We look forward to hearing more from our citizens as we continue to grow," said Church.

September 17

Des Moines Station 26
10am-Noon
2238 S 223rd St
Child Car Seat Checks

Station 66
1pm-3pm
27010 15th Ave S
Helmet Fits

♦♦♦

September 24

Station 62
11am-2pm
31617 1st Ave S
Child Car Seat Checks & Helmet Fits

♦♦♦

October 1

Station 61
10am-Noon
3203 S 360th St
Child Car Seat Checks

Station 64
1pm-3pm
3700 S 320th St
Helmet Fits

♦♦♦

October 8

Station 63
10am-Noon
33414 21st Ave SW
Child Car Seat Checks

Station 65
1pm-3pm
4966 S 298th St
Helmet Fits

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A Repeat Proposal

Proposition 1 Renewal on September 20 Ballot

Federal Way citizens may recognize the details of Proposition 1 from the Federal Way Fire Department. Every year since 2001, Proposition 1 has appeared on the ballot – asking voters to maintain the current tax rate of $1.50 per $1,000 assessed value.

Washington voters passed I-747 in 2001, which limits the taxes the Fire Department can collect to no more than 1% above the amount collected the previous year without a public vote.

The Federal Way Fire Department Board of Commissioners determined that the 1% limit would not cover operating costs for next year.

PROPOSITION 1 WILL ALLOW THE FEDERAL WAY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO:

- Retain firefighters & support staff
- Ensure adequate number of firefighters at emergencies
- Maintain safety for firefighters
- Provide inspections of schools and businesses
- Offer fire safety education in schools
- Maintain $1.50 tax rate

Proposition 1 would allow the Federal Way Fire Department to continue the rate of $1.50 per $1,000 assessed value, which is the same as citizens currently pay.

This would secure funding for current fire and emergency medical services and pay for inflationary costs for 2006.

Continued on Page 2

Proposition 1 and Your Fire Department

VOTE
September 20

Q. What does Proposition 1 mean to your Fire Department?

A. Citizens of our community are responsible to determine the level of services provided by the Federal Way Fire Department. Proposition 1 allows voters to decide whether or not the fire department maintains its current level of service.

Q. Is the Federal Way Fire Department Proposition 1 a new tax?

A. No. Proposition 1 allows the Fire Department to continue the rate of $1.50 per $1,000 assessed value - the same as you currently pay. Maintaining the rate provides funding for current fire and emergency medical services and pays for inflationary costs for 2006.

Q. Why does the Fire Department need to continually go to the voters to maintain the levy rate?

A. In 2001, Washington voters passed I-747 [RCW 84.55.0101] that limits the taxes the Fire Department can collect to no more than 1% above the amount collected in the previous year without a public vote. The Board of Fire Commissioners determined that the 1% limit will not cover operating costs for next year. Since 2001, citizens in the community have continued to maintain the rate of services.

Q. How would the Fire Department budget be affected in 2006 if Proposition 1 does not pass?

A. The Fire Department would face a revenue loss of approximately $500,000. That loss compounded over time will erode the Fire Department's reserves and its ability to provide essential services to our community. At a time when requests for services are increasing, a loss of up to $500,000 makes it impossible to preserve the level of service the community has requested and receives.

Q. What services would have to be cut if tax collection can only increase 1%?

A. The fire department may have to lay off staff. Other possible cutbacks could include postponing equipment orders and reducing specialized services.

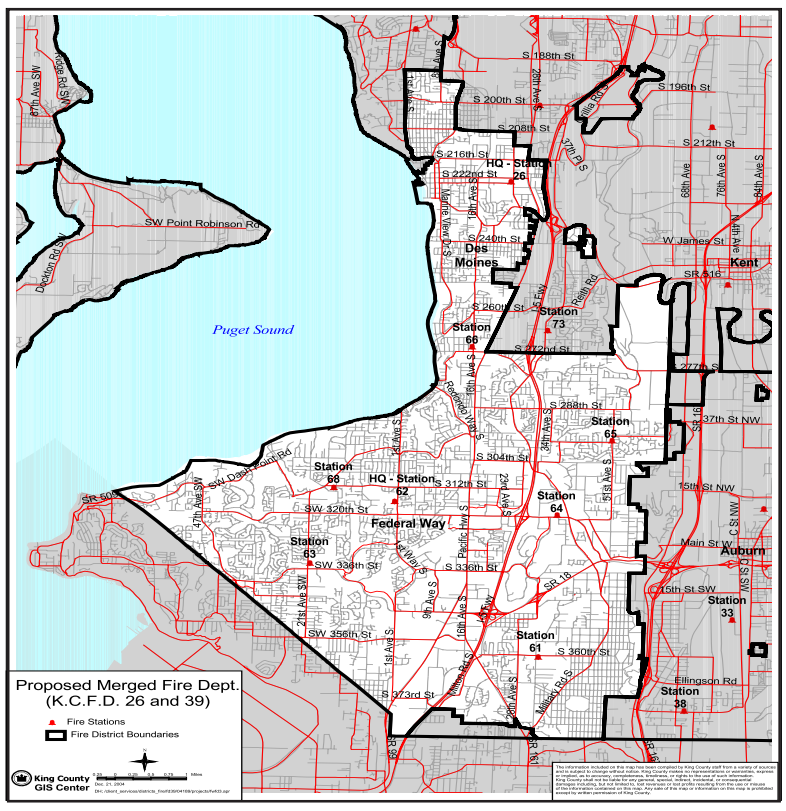
Federal Way Fire on the Verge of a Merge with District 26

On September 20 voters in Des Moines will decide if they want to merge with the Federal Way Fire Department and form South King Fire and Rescue. The citizens in Des Moines will vote; those in Federal Way will not.

For the past several months Federal Way Fire Chief Al Church and King County Fire District 26/Des Moines Fire Chief Jim Polhamus have presented merger information to residents, service clubs and organizations throughout their communities regarding the proposed merge.

A merger between the two departments would not only increase the types of services provided, but increase efficiencies as well. The key elements of the merger plan include:

- ✓ Increase the minimum number of firefighters on-duty 24 hours a day at the Des Moines station from three to five.
- ✓ Increase the types of service available to the City of Des Moines. Federal Way provides hazardous material response, confined space rescue and a 24-hour on-duty Battalion Chief. Presently Des Moines receives these services via mutual aid.
- ✓ Provide marine rescue service to Federal Way. District 26 operates a fire boat from the Des Moines Marina which provides service to Federal Way via mutual aid.
- ✓ Reduce overhead costs by combining the business offices and administrative functions, and eliminating some positions through attrition.
- ✓ Reduce vehicle costs by selling or not replacing duplicated apparatus.



The Federal Way Fire Department and District 26 are governed by elected Boards of Fire Commissioners. If the merger is approved, the five commissioners from Federal Way and the three commissioners from District 26 would form a new board of eight commissioners. Over the next six years, the board would reduce back to five commissioners.

	Federal Way Fire	Fire District 26
Number of Stations	7	1
Square Miles	34	5.5
Population	120,000	30,000
2004 Calls for Service	11,197	3145
2004 Assessed Value	$8,311,488,666	$2,081,380,063
2004 Operating Budget	$13,293,856	$3,579,670

For additional information, please contact:

Federal Way Fire Department
Fire Chief Al Church
Phone: 253-839-6234
Email: allen.church@federalwayfire.org

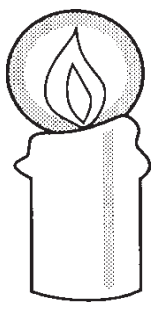
King County Fire District #26
Fire Chief Jim Polhamus
Phone: 206-878-2210
Email: polhamus@kcfd26.org

www.firemergers.org

Stay Fire Safe This Winter

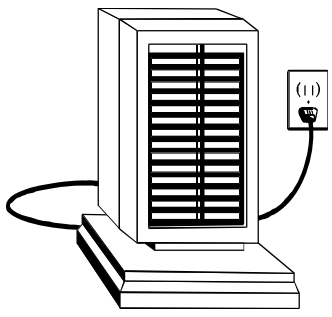
As weather changes and temperatures get cooler, the risk of fire increases, especially during the holiday season. This is typically due to human behavior with candle and heat use in the home. Some people use candles, heaters, and fireplaces to provide warmth and light.

The Federal Way Fire Department asks citizens to not only prepare for fire, but prevent fire as well. This winter, keep the following safety tips in mind if you use candles and heat sources in your home.



CANDLES

- Keep candles a safe distance from combustibles, including furniture and decorations.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended – always blow candles out before leaving the room.
- Burn candles only when you are out of bed, awake, and alert. Many candle fires are caused by occupants falling asleep with candles still burning in their bedroom.
- Do not leave candles burning for long periods. For example, if candles in glass containers are left burning too long, the heat can shatter the glass and cause a fire.
- Put candles in a proper candleholder that can catch dripping wax and won't burn. Do not place candles directly on furniture, books, or a Styrofoam block.
- Place candles where they can't be knocked down or blown over.
- Remember that flickering flame is a thing of fascination to young children. Keep candles, matches and lighters out of their reach.



HEATERS

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from furniture, walls, curtains, bedding, and all other flammable items.
- Never use extension cords with space heaters.
- Inspect space heaters before use. Discontinue use if the space heater has fraying insulation, broken wires, or shows any sign of overheating.
- Never use space heaters for drying clothes, warming bedding, heating food, thawing pipes, or anything other than supplemental heat.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave a room or go to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets whenever space heaters are in use.
- When buying space heaters look for a model with automatic shut-off features.
- Don't use the stove or oven to heat your home.



FIREPLACES

- Clean the fireplace and chimney regularly to avoid buildup.
- Be sure no flammable materials hang down from the mantel that could ignite from a spark.
- Always use a fireplace screen large enough to catch rolling logs or sparks.
- Don't overload the fireplace with too many logs and never burn garbage or Christmas trees.
- Don't use flammable liquids to start the fire.
- Be sure the damper is open before starting a fire, and never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.
- Store cool ashes in a tightly sealed metal container.
- Have fireplace inspected and cleaned regularly.

www.federalwayfire.org

Tell us what you think!

Please send any comments or questions to:

Public Education Division
Federal Way Fire Department
31617 1st Ave S
Federal Way, WA 98003

Help Save Lives in Federal Way: Remind Your Family and Friends - Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

As the time change approaches this fall, the Federal Way Fire Department wants to remind residents to make another change that could save lives – change batteries in smoke alarms.

Communities nationwide witness tragic house fire deaths each year. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms: dead or missing batteries.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce deaths and injuries.

In fact, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a house fire by 50 percent. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends replacing your smoke alarms every ten years.

"The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. when most families are sleeping," says Fire Chief Al Church. "Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely."



In addition, Church recommends residents use the "extra" hour they save from the time change to test smoke alarms by pushing the test button, planning "two ways out" and practicing escape routes with the entire family.

CERT: Disaster Preparedness Classes Begin January 5

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) teaches the essential skills you may need when disaster strikes. Learn how to be better prepared, put out fires, treat injuries, search buildings and work as a team. There is a $25 fee for this course.

Those who attend at least seven of the eight sessions will receive a CERT manual, class handouts, a hardhat, a safety vest, a CERT patch, and a certificate of completion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the City of Federal Way.

Classes are held on Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 pm, beginning January 5 and run for seven weeks. The eighth and final class is held on Saturday, February 18 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

To register, call the Volunteer and Neighborhood Program Coordinator at (253) 661-4023 or get an application at the City of Federal Way's website:
www.ci.federal-way.wa.us

Federal Way Firefighters Win at World Games



Mernaugh, center, received a total of five gold medals.



Rickert, right, won the bronze medal in the mountain bike race.

Federal Way Firefighters Ed Rickert and Paul Mernaugh returned from the World Police and Fire Games in Quebec, Canada – both with medals. Months and months of cycle and mountain bike training paid off during the June 26 – July 5 games. Their discipline and dedication rewarded them six medals, a feeling of accomplishment, and an experience they will never forget.

The structured training schedule began in November with weight lifting and long distance rides, with an emphasis on increasing leg strength and endurance. Training transitioned in March with faster rides and participation in local races.

Mernaugh took four bikes to Quebec, and Rickert took three. Both competed in the same eight events.

"Only a few signed up for, let alone completed all eight bicycle races," Mernaugh said. "Once the competition was under way, I took each race as it came and never held anything back."

Rickert and Mernaugh raced eight days with only one day off half-way through the Games. They spent that day riding the course for the race they competed in the following day.

"Most of our days were spent at the race venues. Ed and I had different race times, but we usually were present for all the races to offer support," Mernaugh said.

The road to the Games was not always easy. Along with the all preparation, the cost of flights, entry fees, and shipping the bikes to Quebec was expensive. Rickert decided to invest his time seeking sponsorship for he and Mernaugh to compete in the Games, but there was more than a monetary motivation involved in his decision to do this.

"I wanted to create a cohesive team between Paul and myself…he has been of great help in my training and this would be a nice way to say thanks," said Rickert.

He also said he needed a cheering section. "I was having trouble staying motivated and I wanted to roll up to the start line in a sharp race kit – you know, the really bright, garish clothes bike racers wear – with sponsors names plastered all over it," said Rickert. "Bicycle racing has its own version of the end-zone dance. It happens just before the finish line when a winning rider takes the time to zip up his jersey in order to properly display the sponsors' names on his chest."

Mernaugh was able to do this six times; Rickert at his sixth race.

"Eddie and I are very grateful for all the help for our trip to the 2005 World Police and Fire Games. We're both sincerely touched by the good wishes everyone extended to us. We would like to thank all of those people who supported us with encouragement and financial help," said Mernaugh.

They took this support and encouragement with them to Quebec where they competed with over 100 participants to finish at or near the top in most events. Winning the medals was an extraordinary feeling for Mernaugh and Rickert, but participating with thier peers from across the globe only added to the experience.

"There is a feeling of brotherhood of police and fire at one of these," said Mernaugh, "I would encourage others to think of something to participate in just to go."

RACE	RESULTS	
Criterium	Mernaugh-1st	Rickert-6th
Time Trial	Mernaugh-1st	Rickert-6th
Hill Climb	Mernaugh-1st	Rickert-6th
Sprint	Mernaugh-4th	Rickert-4th
Road Race	Mernaugh-8th	Rickert-6th
Mountain Bike Race	Mernaugh-1st	Rickert-3rd
Cyclocross	Mernaugh-1st	Rickert-4th
Downhill	Mernaugh-3rd	Rickert-5th

About the World Police and Fire Games…

It originally began in 1967 with the California Police Olympics. The high level of interest shown by athletes participating in this event encouraged the Federation to create an international event in 1985, or the World Police & Fire Games. The Federation is a non-profit organization governed by a steering committee composed of active and retired members of various police and fire departments in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

In A Day's Work

at the Federal Way Fire Department



Each day, firefighter-EMT's respond to over 30 calls for service throughout the greater Federal Way community. In between calls, they are involved in training and drills, participating in community events and completing various tasks and responsibilities at the fire station.

The following summary gives a review of a typical day of service calls the Federal Way Fire Department responds to. Day in and day out, firefighter-EMT's respond to more medical calls than fires, or any other request for service. In fact, over 70% of the total call volume consists of medical responses.

Total Calls on This Day: 38

EMS: 28
Fire: 3
Other: 7

Firefighters respond to over 30 calls a day, all while continuing their necessary training and participating in community events.

Alarm Time	Incident	Alarm Time	Incident	Alarm Time	Incident
7:40 AM	Ill Person	2:32	Fireworks Explosion	7:46	Automatic Fire Alarm
8:12	Cooking Fire	3:14	Ill Person	7:58	Trauma
8:53	Ill Person	3:25	Chest Pain	8:12	Automatic Fire Alarm
8:55	Chest Pain	3:41	Ill Person	9:02	Chest Pain
9:33	Choking	5:18	Ill Person	9:48	Ill Person
10:56	Motor Vehicle Collision	5:37	Trauma	9:58	Ill Person
12:00 PM	House Fire	5:41	Motor Vehicle Collision	10:02	Motor Vehicle Collision
12:18	Automatic Fire Alarm	5:43	Debris Fire	10:15	Unauthorized Burning
12:29	False Alarm	6:06	Trauma	10:39	Motor Vehicle Collision
1:20	Motor Vehicle Collision	6:29	Unauthorized Burning	10:58	Motor Vehicle Collision
1:49	Motor Vehicle Collision	7:16	Choking	2:39 AM	Trauma
2:03	Fall	7:19	Breathing Problems	5:31	Trauma
		7:21	Psychiatric	7:17	Ill Person

