

WINTER 2009

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*Serving the citizens of Greater
Federal Way and Des Moines*



THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SKF&R ENCOURAGES WINTER PREPAREDNESS AT HOME AND IN VEHICLES

Last winter, the region experienced extreme winter conditions. As the winter storm season is quickly approaching, it is important to take time to get prepared. South King Fire & Rescue would like to ask people to prepare their homes for winter conditions and use caution when walking and driving in snow and ice.

Ice-covered sidewalks, steps, driveways and porches can prove hazardous for all people and could result in injuries from falls. Keep steps and walkways as clear as possible from ice by using products such as salt or sand to reduce the risk of slipping.

Make sure pipes that are most at risk to freezing are insulated. Look at pipes located near the outer walls, in crawl spaces or in the attic. If the outside temperature drops below freezing, be sure to trickle hot and cold water at night from a faucet on an outside wall. You can also open cabinet doors for heat to reach any non-insulated pipes under sinks or appliances near an outer wall. If pipes do freeze, make sure your family knows how to shut off the water to prevent pipes from bursting. Call a plumber and never try to thaw pipes.

Before a winter storm, make sure your vehicle is fueled up ahead of time. If you must travel, use caution when driving in low visibility, on ice-covered roads, overpasses and bridges. Bring chains, an emergency kit, blanket and non-perishable food and water in case you get stranded. Make sure to someone knows where you are going.



WINTER SAFETY

- ▷ INSTALL SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS ON EACH LEVEL OF YOUR HOME. TEST ALARMS ONCE A MONTH AND CHANGE THE BATTERIES ONCE A YEAR.
- ▷ KEEP SPACE HEATERS THREE FEET AWAY FROM ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN.
- ▷ USE A SCREEN OR GLASS FRONT ON WOOD BURNING FIRE PLACES TO CATCH SPARKS OR ROLLING LOGS. ALSO MAKE SURE THE FLUE IS OPEN IN THE FIRE PLACE.
- ▷ GET AN ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER; LEARN HOW TO USE IT AND CHECK IT YEARLY TO MAKE SURE IT IS STILL WORKING.



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WELCOME BACK FIREFIGHTER BRYANT

South King Fire & Rescue is pleased to welcome back Firefighter Robert Bryant, not just to work, but back home. In August 2008, he left for a yearlong deployment that took him to Iraq.

During his time away from the fire department, Bryant served in Balad, near Baghdad. As a 1st Lt. in the Army National Guard, Bryant's unit delivered crucial supplies such as water and fuel to fellow soldiers.

Bryant was also gone from his wife, Monika and their daughter, Bailey, for 12 months. Although the time away from them was one of the hardest parts of the journey, Bryant did get to communicate with them daily by email and occasional phone calls.

As stated by Bryant's wife, he is a hero who has not only served his community, but has served his country.

Bryant isn't the only firefighter who is on active military reserve. Firefighters Eric Kiphart and Brandon Church also stand ready to serve if called. These members participate in routine military training away from the fire department in order to keep their skills up.

SKF&R supports firefighters who are also soldiers by supplementing the pay gap between what they get from the military and what their current pay at the fire department is. The policy also holds employment for any firefighter who must leave their job due to military deployment.

FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF



AL CHURCH
FIRE CHIEF/ADMINISTRATOR

It has been an honor to work for the 150,000 citizens of South King Fire & Rescue (SKF&R) for the past 32 years. In that time, we have made some significant improvements to provide your family and business with the highest level of fire and emergency medical service. We have also faced some significant challenges, like now during the worst economy since the Great Depression.

SKF&R is funded almost exclusively from property taxes. When property values decline, like now, it impacts the amount of revenue we receive and our ability to maintain the same level of emergency services you have come to expect. For 2010, declining property values mean that SKF&R will lose more than \$3.5 million from its operating budget.

This is a big hit, and we have proposed drastic budget cuts across the board to respond to this revenue shortfall. Unfortunately, it's not enough. Even with reserve funds, we cannot continue to maintain existing service levels after 2010 unless we stabilize our revenue stream.

Several neighboring fire districts have faced similar challenges. In response, their citizens passed a "Benefit Charge" to stabilize revenue and maintain service levels. With a Benefit Charge, property taxes are reduced and a set fee is put in place based on the square footage of a home or business. We will spend a lot of time over the next several months educating the public about a Benefit Charge. Ultimately, you will get to vote on the issue sometime next year.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. We hope you won't need to call 9-1-1, but if you do, we'll be there for you when you need us and in record time. Your continued support has made this a wonderful place to work for more than three decades. Thank you!

Sincerely,

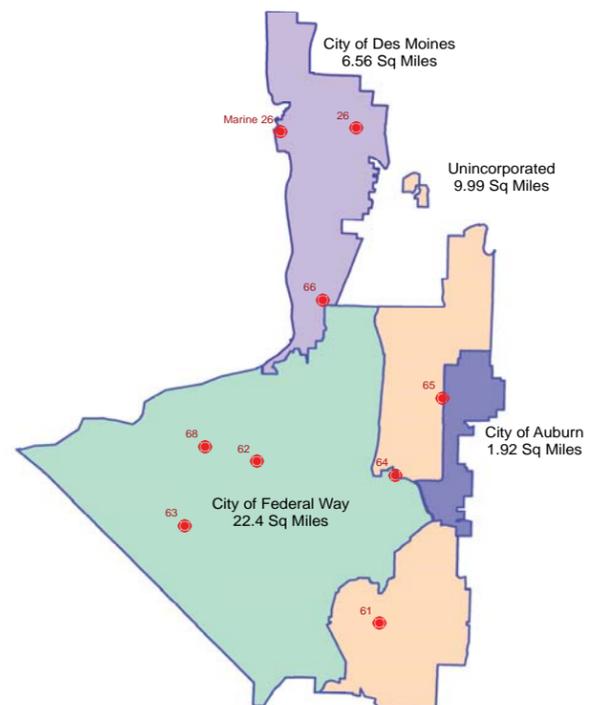
South King Fire & Rescue serves the cities of Federal Way, Des Moines, portions of the cities of Auburn and Normandy Park, and a portion of unincorporated King County.

Careerfirefighter-EMT's responded to over 16,000 calls for service in 2008, protecting over 150,000 people. SKF&R responds to approximately 50 calls each day.

Other SKF&R services include:

FIRE PREVENTION. The Fire Marshal's Office provides fire and life safety inspections, reviews construction plans, issues permits, and conducts fire investigations. You can contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 253-946-7248.

PUBLIC EDUCATION. SKF&R offers fire and life safety education for youth and adults, including FREE CPR & First Aid instruction, disaster preparedness training and senior home safety. Call the Public Education Division at 253-946-7347 for any questions, or to register for a CPR class, visit www.southkingfire.org or call the main business number.



SKF&R response area, approximately 41 square miles

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE		
HEADQUARTERS 31617 1 st Avenue South – Federal Way, WA 98003		
CONTACT INFORMATION		
EMERGENCY	9-1-1	
HEADQUARTERS/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	253-839-6234	
FIND US ON THE WEB	SOUTHKINGFIRE.ORG	



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ANNUAL COMMUNITY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The economy has impacted everyone; all you have to do is look around. Some of those people may be in your back yard and you may not even know it. The Annual Community Food and Toy Drive for Federal Way and Des Moines is here to lend a hand, but we need your help.

The Community Food and Toy Drive is collecting donations of canned, nonperishable food and new unwrapped toys at any South King Fire & Rescue fire stations between now and December 21. Donations of cash or checks made out to the "Community Food and Toy Drive" are also accepted. Delivery of food and toys for 130 families is set for Tuesday, December 22.

The Annual Community Food & Toy Drive started in the 1980's with retired Fire Chief ML "Bud" Thorson and local community service clubs. When the program first started they were only able to help about 30 families. Since that time, thanks to the continuing assistance and generosity of local service clubs, private businesses and neighborhood groups, the program has grown. In 2008 the Annual Community Food and Toy Drive provided a Holiday Dinner with all the trimmings, and a week's supply of food to 130 families and presents for 451 children.

"Kiwanis members work closely with elementary schools in the Federal Way and Des Moines to get the names of families who need a helping hand," said Ed Coutts Lions Club member. "Then we coordinate with the local food banks to make sure we're not duplicating efforts. After that, groups will organize themselves and spend hours buying food and gifts, gathering donations, sorting food and wrapping toys for over 400 children."

Volunteers make the rounds throughout the month and gather all the donations at Station 26 for sorting, wrapping and distribution. The money is used to purchase turkeys, supplement grocery items for each family, and provide the children with at least two wrapped gifts.

Committee members credit the Des Moines and Federal Way service clubs, schools, private businesses, neighborhood groups, and individuals for the success of this yearly drive. "Without the community's support and generosity, we wouldn't be able to provide for those families truly in need of a bright Christmas," said Kevin Crossen, Food and Toy Drive Committee Coordinator.

Past long time sponsors have been the Federal Way Noon Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, members from the Greater Federal Way Kiwanis, Federal Way Rotary Club, Gai's Bakery, Federal Way High School, Decatur High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Twin Cedars Mobile Home Park, Berger Abam Engineering Inc., South King Fire & Rescue Firefighters Foundation, Des Moines Lions and Rotary Clubs, Wilcox Dairy, Score Board Pub, Summit Trading, Wal-Mart, and Baden Sports. Each year they commit time, money, food, gifts, energy or other resources to the drive. In addition there are many, many unnamed individuals who donate their time, food, gifts, and money to this worthy program.



STATION 61
3203 S 360TH ST

STATION 62
31617 1ST AVE S (HEADQUARTERS)

STATION 63
33414 21ST AVE SW

STATION 64
3700 S 320TH ST

STATION 65
4966 S 298TH ST

STATION 66
27010 15TH AVE S

STATION 68
1405 SW 312TH ST

STATION 26
2238 S 223RD ST

For information on how businesses, individuals or organizations can get involved with this year's drive, contact 253-946-7246.



WHEN SHOULD I CALL 9-1-1?

WHEN AND HOW TO CALL CAN HELP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Is this a real emergency? Ask this question before dialing 9-1-1. A true emergency is when something poses an immediate risk to health, life, property or the environment. 9-1-1 should only be used for situations requiring an IMMEDIATE response of Fire, Police or Emergency Medical Personnel. South King Fire & Rescue responds to over 16,000 calls for service each year. Most of these calls are responded to in less than five minutes. If you or someone you know is experiencing one of the following, call 9-1-1 or visit the emergency room immediately:

MEDICAL

- Difficulty breathing
- Symptoms of a heart attack
- Symptoms of a stroke
- Trauma resulting in major broken bones, lacerations and concussions
- High fever in newborns younger than 9 months
- A major cut that's deep or won't stop bleeding

FIRE

- Smell of smoke
- See fire

SERIOUS CRIMES

- People fighting and hurting each other
- Someone being robbed or beaten
- Someone acting suspiciously, stealing, or breaking into a home or building



WHEN NOT TO CALL 9-1-1

If you are experiencing other types of problems that do not require an immediate fire, police, or emergency medical response, please do not use 9-1-1. Some examples are:

- Minor injury or illness such as flu, cold, ongoing aches and pains, minor cuts and burns, and broken fingers or toes
- Power outages
- Cable interruptions
- Plumbing or minor flooding problems
- Request of information
- To see if 9-1-1 is working
- As a joke



WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU CALL 9-1-1

- Tell the 9-1-1 call taker what is wrong
- Tell the 9-1-1 call taker your name, address and telephone number
- Do not hang up until the 9-1-1 call taker tells you it's okay; they may have to ask you more information

Stay calm, speak clearly, be prepared to answer questions, and receive instructions on what to do until emergency personnel arrive.

SOME OTHER TIPS:

- Make sure your address is visible from the street not just during the day, but at night
- Keep areas around fire hydrants clear of parked cars, fences, bushes, tall weeds and debris
- Don't park in fire lanes – this prevents firefighters, medics and police officers from getting to the emergency quickly

