



In this issue

- ✓ Safety Show
- ✓ Preschools
- ✓ A Senior Moment
- ✓ Proposition 1
- ✓ Smoke Alarms
- ✓ CPR
- ✓ Thermal Imagers
- ✓ Escape Planning

Upcoming Events

Primary Elections
September 16

CERT Begins
September 25

Safety Show
October 4, 11am - 6pm
SeaTacMall

Preschool Visits
October 6 - 10
On location - see article

Change Your Batteries
October 26

Election Day
November 4

Community Tree Lighting
December 6, 4 - 6pm
Community Tree, Northwest parking lot at SeaTac Mall
Lighting of tree, various performances, food, bike and ski helmet fit and sale.



October 26

Fire Prevention Week October 5 - 11

Stop Fire Now



Keep an Eye on What You Fry and heat oil on low or medium heat. This training fire was oil heated on high.

There is a fire in someone's house almost every two days in Federal Way. A building burns every four days. The most tragic part of this picture is that the most common cause of these fires is 100% preventable.

Cooking fires.

Four Simple Rules:

- Only heat grease and oil on low or medium, never on high.
- Never leave your cooking unattended. Many fires start because no one was there to notice the smoke and turn off the heat before flames burst from the pan. **Keep an Eye on What You Fry!**
- Keep a lid, larger pan or baking sheet handy in case of fire.
- Keep oven mitts or hot pads handy to protect your hands.

If you have a pan fire:

1. Get everyone outside.
2. Call 9-1-1 from outside of the building.

Attention Preschools

Reserve your time now for fire safety classes during Fire Prevention Week – October 6 – 10. This year, we've partnered with Lowe's Home Improvement to help little ones build a fire safety foundation for life. Here's how it works:

Each day during the week, two safety teams will hit the streets, going to designated preschools and daycares throughout our community. Federal Way Fire Educators and Lowe's Safety Team Members are geared up to make 30-minute presentations specifically designed for preschoolers, age 4 to 5 years.

Preschoolers will learn the importance of giving matches and lighters to adults, what to do if their clothes catch fire, and how to escape safely from a smoke-filled house. A variety of props and hands-on activities make the safety lessons fun and memorable.

Continued on page 2

If the fire is only in the pan and you decide to fight it, get everyone else out, call 9-1-1 and then:

3. Using oven mitts and a lid cover the pan, smothering the fire. This is faster than a fire extinguisher or baking soda.
4. Turn off the heat.
5. Exit the building and wait for the fire department to arrive.

Don't forget:

- Leave the pan and the cover in place until cool to the touch. If not, you may spread the fire, burn yourself or re-ignite the fire.
- Don't use water. Water will spread a grease fire.

Preschools

Continued from page 1

To offer the program locally, the Federal Way Lowe's store applied for and received a grant from the National Home Safety Council as part of the Lowe's Home Safety Heroes program. Thirteen Lowe's Safety Team members will receive special training on how to conduct the preschool classes.

"We are proud to have been chosen by Lowe's for this year's Home Safety Heroes program," said Jerry Thorson, Federal Way Fire Marshal. "They've been a great safety partner in our community."

To schedule your school, call Debbie Goetz at 253-946-7246. Four time slots are available each day, Monday through Friday. Classes are limited to 25. The schedule is limited, and first-come, first-served, so sign up early.

Are You Ready to Rumble?



The City of Federal Way is offering a seven-session disaster preparedness course entitled "Community Emergency Response Teams." Classes will be held on Thursday nights beginning September 25th. There is a \$25 registration fee. To register, call 253-661-4023 or email vn@ci.federal-way.wa.us.



Scout Nite 2003 was a great success thanks to the work of many many scout leaders and firefighters. Over 400 people attended the two sessions. Neighboring fire departments provided escape practice and a dalmation that taught how to stop, drop and roll. Federal Way firefighters taught how to prevent fires and injuries (left), gave tours of a fire engine and aid car (right), and cooked enough hot dogs to keep the troops happy!

Test Your Smoke Alarm Knowledge

- The best type of smoke alarm is:
 - Photoelectric (detects flames).
 - Ionization (detects smoke).
 - Easy to use silence and test functions.
 - One with all of the above.
- How often should you test your alarm?
 - Once a year.
 - Once a month.
 - Once a week.
 - When food burns.
- How often should you replace the batteries?
 - At least once a year.
 - At least once a month.
 - At least once a week.
 - Wait until it "chirps."
- When you hear your alarm sound, you should:
 - Run around and open the windows.
 - Call 9-1-1 from your phone.
 - Get out of the building and stay out.
 - Find out where the fire is.

1. d, 2. b, 3. a, 4. c

October 26
Change the batteries in your smoke alarms

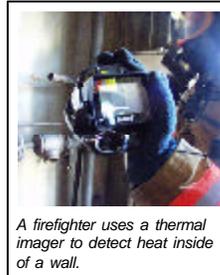
On the Line

Imagine this firefighter nightmare: Someone is trapped in a smoke-filled building. Heat and fire are rapidly growing. You know they are there, but because of extremely limited visibility, your only choice is to feel your way slowly and methodically through each room, hoping to find them.

Firefighters train themselves for these situations, but under heavy smoke and heat conditions, time is of the essence when life is at stake.

Precious search time can now be maximized thanks to the addition of thermal imaging cameras, recently installed on Federal Way's six front-line fire engines, ladder truck and fire

command vehicle. The eight cameras are part of a grant to the fire service from the Federal Government.



A firefighter uses a thermal imager to detect heat inside of a wall.

The hand-held devices work by distinguishing temperatures between objects. In the case of a fallen fire victim, their image would either be lighter or darker than the surrounding area, allowing firefighters to pinpoint their location in a smoke-filled room.

Fire crews have spent the summer months drilling to gain critical skills and proficiency with the imagers. Recently, firefighters used an imager to locate an occupant refusing to leave a smoke-filled garage. Firefighters brought him out safely.



The fire department is a founding partner of the Federal Way Helmet Coalition, providing low-cost, custom-fit safety helmets. Two more fits are scheduled in 2003, October 4 and December 6.



Firefighters gave tours of their engine at the World Vision Soccer Camp. The Federal Way Firefighters Foundation provided several scholarships for students to attend the camp.

Questions & Answers About Proposition 1

Q. Why is Federal Way Fire Department Proposition 1 on the ballot?

A. The Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that the 1% limitation established by Initiative 747 (now RCW 84.55.0101) will not cover inflationary costs for next year. Proposition 1 is on the ballot to allow voters to decide whether the fire district may increase their next year's budget by more than I-747 allows.

(Related codes can be viewed at www.federalwayfire.org)

Q. Wasn't there a similar ballot measure done in 2002?

A. Yes, this is the same ballot measure that voters approved in 2001 and 2002.

When I-747 became law in 2002 (RCW 84.55.0101) it gave voters the opportunity and responsibility to determine the level of their local services like ours.

Proposition 1, a.k.a. "lid lift," (RCW 52.16.140) is the most common voter-approved method for funding fire districts like ours.

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

A. No. Proposition 1 would allow the Federal Way Fire Department to maintain the current collection of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Q. What services does the Federal Way Fire Department provide?

A. The Federal Way Fire Department provides fire suppression, fire investigation, basic emergency medical services for injury and illness, hazardous material response, search and rescue, disaster response, emergency operation center, general assistance to community members, new building inspection, fire and life safety code enforcement, fire prevention, fire and life safety education in schools and daycares, fall and fire prevention for seniors, community newsletters, business emergency and disaster training, community disaster preparation, CPR and First Aid training, public events, custom-fit safety helmets and home safety surveys.



Federal Way Fire Department Aid Units

When you vote on September 16, you'll find a measure on your ballot from the Federal Way Fire Department:

"Proposition No. 1 Federal Way Fire Department Authorizing Increase in Property Taxes Over 1% Limitation"

Q. What types of challenges is the Federal Way Fire Department facing that requires Proposition 1 to be on the ballot?

A. Our biggest operational challenge is meeting the needs of our changing world and community as terrorism becomes a larger threat. Because we are a people-oriented emergency service, global issues such as new and changing diseases (i.e. SARS and Small Pox) impact our workplace.

The Fire Department faces increased costs each year in the form of utilities, fuel, supplies, employee health care benefits, wages, vehicle and building insurance, which we cannot control. As the community has grown, requests for fire department services have increased.

In 2002, we responded to 10,477 incidents, a 14.4% increase from 2001. In 2003, we expect to exceed 12,000 incidents, a 14.5% increase.

Q. How much will it cost if Proposition 1 passes?

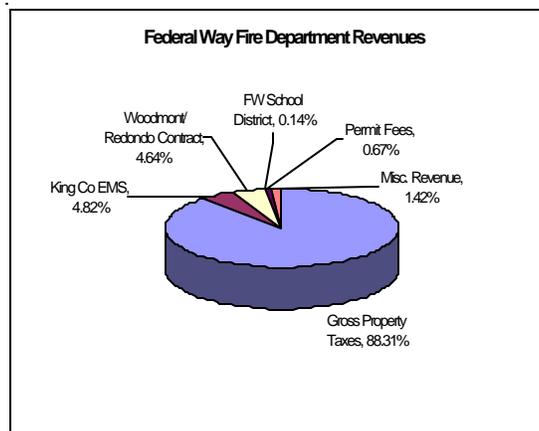
A. For 2004, a homeowner will pay the same rate as they are currently paying, \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

Q. How would the Fire Department budget be affected if Proposition 1 doesn't pass?

A. The Fire Department would face a revenue loss of up to \$500,000 annually, impacting the 2004 budget as approved by the elected Board of Fire Commissioners. This may include alterations in the level of services provided to the community.

Q. How are the essential services of the Federal Way Fire Department funded?

A. 88.31% of the fire department's funding comes directly from property taxes. The fire department also receives funding from contracts for services and permit fees as shown below.



If you have other questions, or would like someone from the Fire Department to talk to your group, please call Fire Chief Al Church at 253-839-6234 or 253-927-3118.

A Senior Moment

What would you do if you got stuck in the shower or fell in your bathroom? Or if, one day, you simply didn't have the strength to get yourself out of a chair? How would you signal for help if you couldn't get to a phone?

The elderly experience these very frightening events. But thanks to Lifeline—a personal emergency response system, Federal Way seniors don't have to suffer.

If you're having a life-threatening emergency and can get to a phone, 9-1-1 is still the fastest way to go. But when you can't, Lifeline can save hours or even days.

Easier to use than your telephone, Lifeline subscribers wear a small pendant or wristband. A two-way monitor is hooked up to your phone line. If you need assistance, simply press the signal button. Caring, highly-trained professionals respond by voice, and within minutes, a friend, neighbor or emergency crew will be at your door.

In Federal Way, Lifeline is part of the Franciscan Health System. For more information, call 1-888-771-1977.

A Senior Moment is a new column to provide information for our wonderful Senior population. If you have questions you would like to have addressed, please send them to:

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

CPR and First Aid

Call **253-529-7203** for more information or to request CPR registration. You may register in person at **Federal Way Fire Department Headquarters, 31617 1st Ave S.**

Adult CPR
Certified \$20.00 Non-certified \$5.00

Pediatric CPR
Certified \$20.00 Non-certified \$5.00

Register for Adult and Pediatric CPR classes and receive a discount!
Certified \$32.00 Non-certified \$8.50

First Aid & CPR \$50.00

First Aid & CPR Review \$30.00

Plan to Escape Your Home

Are you and your loved ones prepared to escape a fire?

The national theme for Fire Prevention Week 2003 is Get Out! Stay Out!

The best thing to do during a fire is to escape the building and not go back inside. Children as young as 3 can follow a fire escape plan that they have practiced often, and it can mean the difference between life and death. And don't think adults are any different. You won't be able to think as rationally during an emergency, but you can do what you have practiced.

It only takes a few minutes to practice an escape plan that may save lives. Here's what you can do:

- Draw a basic diagram of your home, marking all windows and doors, and plan two routes out of each room.
- Consider various fire scenarios, such as a fire starting in the kitchen, basement or bedroom.
- If you are escaping smoke, crawl low under the smoke. Touch doors to see if they are warm before opening. If so, use the alternative escape route.
- Designate a safe meeting point outdoors and teach your children never to go back inside the house.
- Practice your fire escape plan regularly – at least twice a year, more often is better. Include a strategy for times when a parent is out of the home.
- Keep exits clear of debris or toys.
- Older children can practice crawling, touching doors, or going to the window, according to your escape plan.
- When you have babies and toddlers in the home, these extra escape options are necessary:
 - Keep a baby harness by the crib. This allows you to carry your baby and leaves your hands free to escape the home.
 - Keep your child's bedroom door closed. If a hallway fire occurs, a closed door will hinder smoke from overpowering your child, giving firefighters extra time for rescue.
 - Teach toddlers not to hide from firefighters. Uniforms can be scary in times of crisis. Teach children that firefighters are there to help in an emergency.



Have a plan to escape from upper floors.

Safety Show at SeaTac Mall

The 28th Annual Safety Show, sponsored by the Federal Way Fire Department, takes place at SeaTac Mall on Saturday, October 4 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Highlights for children and parents include:

Children's car seat check from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Custom-fit bike and multi-sport helmets from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fire Safety Escape House from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Children's ID kits from noon to 6 p.m.

Highlights for adults include:

2004 Firefighter Calendar Signing from noon to 5 p.m.
Cascade Bloodmobile from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
SEMOC – King County's Disaster Command Vehicle from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

And as always, firefighters and police officers will be on-hand to talk with you about any life and public safety concerns. Get to know your community safety representatives!

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

or send an E-mail to:
info@federalwayfire.org