



# THE FIRST RESPONDER

A South King Fire & Rescue Publication

Serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines

SUMMER 2018

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## PROPOSITION 1 - LID LIFT LEVY

### FACTS AND INFORMATION

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, citizens who are provided fire and EMS emergency response services by South King Fire & Rescue will be asked to vote on an important funding measure.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

##### What is the lid lift levy?

A lid lift is a voter approved measure that permits the Fire District to collect more than the 1% per year limit imposed by Initiative 747.

##### Why is the lid lift necessary?

The fire levy has fallen to \$1.43 from the allowable \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. As the community has grown, the Fire District is responding to more calls daily. Over a 5-year period, calls for 911-emergency response have increased 24%. Lifting the lid allows the Fire District's revenue to increase above 1% per year, but no more than 6% as necessary to keep up with growing costs and the demand for service.

##### What does it fund?

Annual operational costs include, personnel, maintenance, equipment, fuel, dispatch and radio fees, supplies and more.

##### Have the citizens of Federal Way & Des Moines supported lid lifts before?

The answer is yes! Prior to the recession, the Fire District ran lid lifts regularly between 2001 and 2007 to fund emergency response operations. Due to the high cost of running elections, SKFR ran a multi-year lid lift in 2007. It was approved by voters and was in place through 2016.

##### What is the cost?

If approved by voters, the 7-cent lid lift would return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. This equates to \$21 per year or \$1.75 per month for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

#### Cost Breakdown on Property Values

Assessed Property Value	Amount Per Month	Amount Per Year
\$200,000	\$1.17	\$14.00
\$300,000	\$1.75	\$21.00
\$400,000	\$2.33	\$28.00
\$500,000	\$2.92	\$35.00

##### How long is the lid lift in place for?

If authorized, the lid lift will be in place for 6 years, 2019-2024.

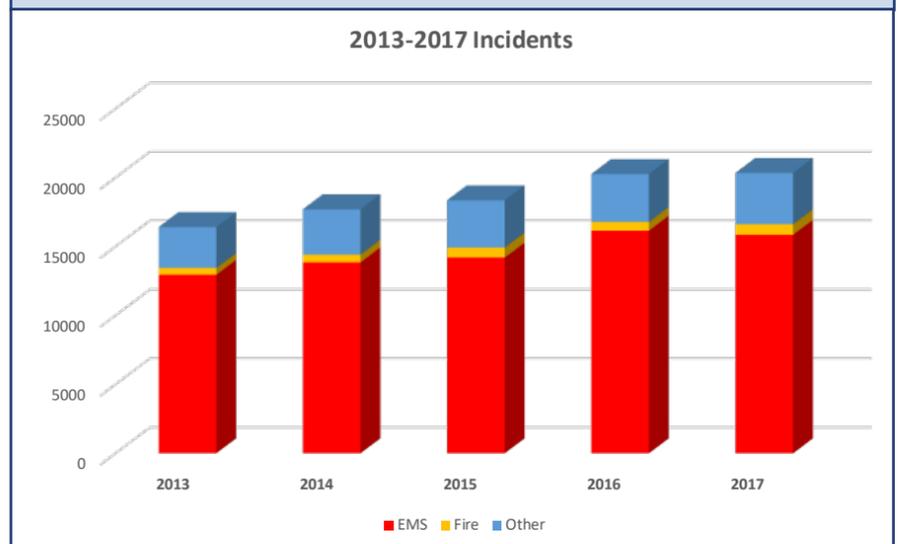


Board of Fire Commissioners discuss Fire District funding during a regular monthly meeting



Large commercial fire in Federal Way downtown core

#### 24% INCREASE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSES THE PAST 5 YEARS 20,337 RESPONSES IN 2017



**KING COUNTY VOTERS  
MAIL BALLOTS FOR FREE  
VOTE BY AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>**

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# SAFETY IMPROVEMENT BOND UPDATE

## Halfway Mark

Safety improvements are more than halfway complete now. Last year, \$15 million of bond funds were invested into our emergency response infrastructure.

Three fire stations underwent significant remodels to ensure firefighter safety and to meet seismic codes. Reliable fire engines and aid cars now respond to incidents 24/7 across the District.

All of these improvements, coupled with those yet to be completed, ensures SKFR is better equipped to serve the community in times of need.

## Bond Dollars at Work

Significant progress has been made since voters approved the Safety Improvement Bond in November 2015. Below is a summary of projects and progress:



Completed Station 63 exterior



### Completed

- Station 67 roof replacement
- 4 Fire Marshal's Office vehicles
- 5 aid cars
- 4 administrative staff vehicles
- 3 staff carpool vehicles
- Critical computer networking components
- Replaced aging telephone system
- Station 67 - Safety improvements
- Station 63 - Safety improvements
- Station 61 - Safety improvements
- 4 fire engines
- 1 Battalion Chief response vehicle
- Tablet-based EMS reporting
- Server system upgrades

### In Progress

- 1 ladder truck replacement
- Station 66 - Construction, safety improvements
- Station 64 - Construction, safety improvements
- Station 62 - Planning, safety improvements
- Station 60 - Planning, maintenance shop



Close-up of seismic reinforcements



Seismic reinforcements being installed at Station 61



Station 66 closed for a serious renovation



Station 66's old emergency generator and new generator

# WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



*Nathan Hoveland  
Fleet Mechanic/Technician*

We would like to introduce Nathan Hoveland to SKFR. Nathan joined our organization last summer to work as a mechanic technician in our Fleet Division.

Nathan started his career as a mechanic working for various auto shops before taking the plunge and opening his own business, Advanced Automotive. For nearly 25 years, Nathan helped local patrons by servicing their vehicles right here in Federal Way. Looking to do something different, Nathan put the business behind him and ventured into the challenging but rewarding area of emergency vehicle maintenance.

Nathan has 2 adult children, both a son and a daughter. He enjoys riding quads in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter near his family's cabin.

Nathan looks forward to maintaining our newest emergency response fleet for many years to come. His experience and expertise will be of great value to us and the community.

Welcome aboard Nathan!



*SKFR's new response fleet lined up in the factory before heading home to serve the community*

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Calls to the 911 system are continually increasing each year. While all call types are generally on the rise, one specific kind is getting the attention of Fire and EMS services throughout the region, including SKFR. Many of our callers have chronic medical problems, or are having difficulty connecting with social services that help them continue to live independently.

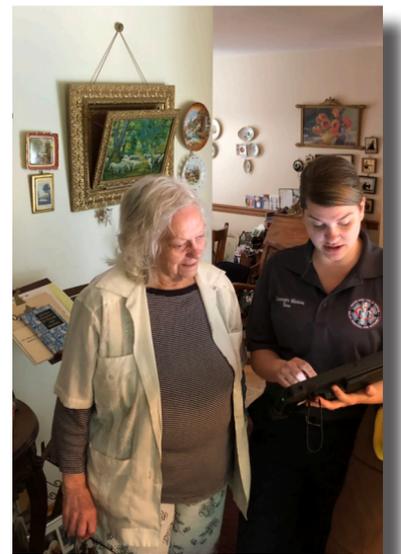
When members of the community struggle to get help for these issues, many call 911. These calls are considered low acuity or non-emergent, as they are often not life threatening. To respond to these types of calls, emergency services have developed a new approach, one that partners qualified social workers and firefighters.

We are pleased to share that SKFR has joined forces with Valley Regional Fire (VRFA) and King County Medic One to address this growing need. Combining our resources, we have hired Carrie Talamaivao, an educated and experienced social worker. Carrie is partnered with firefighters from each agency who are trained as Emergency Medical Technician's (EMT). This partnership between agencies and personnel is referred to as the Community Medical Team or CMT.

When 911 dispatchers identify calls that require a non-emergent response, the CMT unit is dispatched instead of an aid car or fire engine. This saves money and alleviates already strained firefighter/EMT crews. The CMT unit is able to provide medical care through firefighter/EMTs and social care through Carrie's expertise. Her work includes identifying the underlying causes of the situation, developing strategies for prevention, and making connections to social services.

We are finding this collaboration to be very effective. In fact, the CMT unit has already helped 377 people this year. This different kind of service and approach through the SKFR and VRFA partnership is helping our citizens get the help and care they need. It often allows patients to avoid unnecessary trips to the emergency room, and it reduces the strain on the overall system (dispatch, first responders, hospitals, etc.).

This program requires ongoing funding and we are actively looking for ways to maintain this valuable service to the community.



*Community Care Coordinator  
Carrie Talamaivao  
(Talla - my - vov)*

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



With large-scale disasters in the media all the time, you may ask "What are our elected officials doing to prepare for a major event here?" Great question!

Did you know local community leaders have been in the business of disaster planning for more than a decade? In fact, representatives from the cities of Federal Way, Des Moines, Federal Way Public Schools, SKFR, water/sewer districts, St. Francis Hospital, CERT and other volunteer organizations make up The Greater Federal Way Community Emergency Management Group.

Last summer, the group traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland for a week-long training exercise at the Federal Emergency Management Institute. For four days, over 60 local agency representatives participated in a federally funded program to plan for the aftermath of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in our area.

Aided by FEMA professors and experts with experience in running large-scale events, area decision-makers gathered to put their plans to the test. Years of simulations and work have gone into crafting response policies and procedures in preparation for a major disaster of this sort. Recovery topics included infrastructure repair and availability, temporary sheltering, emergency funding, mass debris removal, and more.

SKFR, along with other local agencies, continues to invest in disaster preparedness. Our interagency partnerships will allow us to meet the needs of our community, especially during large-scale events.

*Community leaders in attendance at FEMA*



# NEXT GEN RESPONDERS



## IS YOUR CAR SEAT SAFE...?

In January, SKFR began car seat inspections through a new program!

With this free service, Fire District personnel certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians will help you install your car seat correctly and answer any child passenger safety questions.



### FREE CAR SEAT CHECK UP EVENTS

Space is limited. For more information or to make an appointment call: 253-946-7254.

# IN MEMORIAM

Dick Body, an Army veteran and volunteer for many years with SKFR, passed away last summer. Dick served his country in the Army during the Korean conflict in the 1950's. He later went to work for the United States Postal Service and retired after 25 years. In retirement he found true passion as a volunteer.

Dick donated his time off and on for 30 years with his local fire department, serving in many ways. Most recently, he delivered the weekly interoffice mail between fire stations. While he enjoyed it immensely, it was clear his true happiness was reserved for caring for the Department's 1941 antique fire engine. Dozens of times each year Dick would drive the engine to local community events. There you would have found him giving rides to children and letting them ring the perfectly polished chrome bell. Just weeks before his passing, he drove the antique in the Des Moines Waterland Parade.

Dick's volunteer work wasn't limited to just SKFR. He received many awards for his tireless giving throughout the area. A man of many talents, Dick was also an excellent woodworker. Recognizing his craft, the City of Des Moines commissioned him to restore the Marina Wayfinding Sign located at the their waterfront marina. Over the years Dick carved many intricate pieces and happily gifted them to family and friends. We are humbled to have more than a dozen of his carvings in our fire stations.

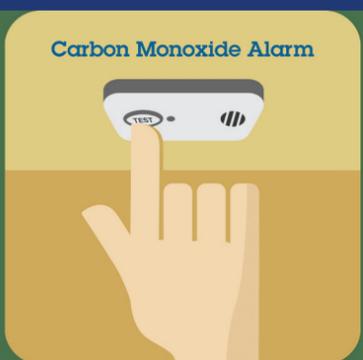
*"I did it, and I'm glad!"*

Dick always started a conversation with "I did it and I'm glad!" His many contributions to his local community and various organizations, along with his happy smile and effervescent attitude, will be forever missed!



*Dick Body always smiled when driving the antique fire engine to events*

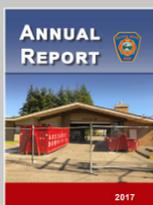
## REMEMBER TO TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS MONTHLY



Locate the "test" button on your Smoke or Carbon Monoxide Detectors and test the devices once a month. This important step will help to ensure the devices are functioning properly. Always replace faulty detectors and dead batteries immediately.

More safety tips @ [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

## GO DIGITAL - NEWSLETTERS, ANNUAL REPORTS, AND MORE ONLINE!



WANT A PAPER COPY? JUST CLICK PRINT!

### SKFR Information:

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

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



### Administration:

Al Church, Fire Chief  
Vic Pennington, Assistant Chief - Operations  
Rick Chaney, Assistant Chief - Training  
Gordon Goodsell, Deputy Chief - Fire Marshal  
Dave Mataftin, Deputy Chief - Facilities/Fleet

Joe Ganem, Executive Director  
Mary Stevens, Human Resources Manager  
Mitchell Lee, IT Manager  
Lauri Perry, Executive Assistant

### Board of Commissioners:

Bill Gates, Commissioner - Board Chair  
Mark Thompson, Commissioner - Vice Chair

James Fossos, Commissioner  
Bill Fuller, Commissioner  
John Rickert, Commissioner