



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

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Touching Lives Today – Planning for Tomorrow



Planning for Tomorrow!

Article by Chief Gary Faucett

In our fall edition I wrote about the first half of our department's newly adopted motto "*Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow*". In this edition I'd like to address our "*Planning for Tomorrow*".

We are working hard to fulfill our paramount goal of "*Planning for Tomorrow*". While costs continue to rise upward, we're preserving our essential services by maximizing our resources wherever possible and planning for tomorrow's growth through finding stable funding mechanisms and improving our community presence and communications with each of you. To assist us with our goal of planning for tomorrow, we have updated our long range strategic plan. Recently, citizens and business leaders from throughout the Lake Stevens community, as well as many of our own team members, participated in this significant planning session. Our revised strategic plan charts an exciting course over the next 5 years and reaches further with a 20 year plan for capital projects such as replacement of our emergency vehicles and major updates to our facilities. These important plans now provide the opportunity for our department to meet the service demands our community seeks from a 21st century fire department.

We're tackling the big issues, seeking solutions to stabilize our funding for a growing community, and employing alternative funding options wherever possible. One such option was our recent decision to implement an internal ambulance billing service rather than contracting this service. We're also increasing our efforts to apply for grants as they become available.

However, 78% of Lake Stevens Fire funding is derived from property taxes and while alternative funding greatly helps curtail rising costs, ultimately we are a property tax supported public service. Legislatively your local fire department can only receive a 1% increase in its income over the previous year's budget (except new construction the first year), regardless of rising costs or the cost of living. As an example, the 1% income increase in 2005 was not enough to cover the cost of fuel increases, much less other increases such as insurance, medical supplies, equipment, etc. Fortunately the law allows the community [by vote] to lift the 1% lid on its local fire department should the need arise.

We are committed to our mission of serving people, saving life and protecting property in the most responsible means possible. The disparities mentioned above direct us to fulfilling our mission by finding funding solutions to restore the loss of our community *Fire Marshal* and our department *Training Officer* due to budget cuts. In addition our plan includes ways to restore the *2700 on duty firefighter hours* which were cutback this year to balance our budget. Our plan also includes finding ways to update our facilities. Currently our firefighters are sleeping on cots in our meeting room and working in attic spaces because our funding has not been able to keep pace with our rapidly growing community. Most importantly our plan explores ways to reduce the increase in response times due to our 44% emergency call volume increase over the past 10 years. This can only be accomplished by ensuring the number of firefighters and paramedics are keeping pace with the growth of our community.

As Lake Stevens Fire works closely with other local government agencies and the greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce businesses to become "One Community" we can have that safer community we all desire by "*Planning for Tomorrow*".

Rescue...

More than a word on our patch.

Article by Captain Mike Barry



It is well known that the fire department responds to **Fire** calls. It is also known that our fire department has Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) that respond to **Medic** calls. When we turn the focus on **Rescue** there is less known about what specifically the fire department does.

Citizens were asked what they thought rescue represented? A typical response was, the use of the "Jaws of Life" on scene of a motor vehicle accident. Others believe rescue is when we respond in our fireboat to rescue a swimmer from drowning. These are some examples of rescue we perform. However, these things just begin to scratch the surface.

Lake Stevens Fire has Rescue Technicians in such disciplines as Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Surface Water Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Ice Rescue and Urban Search & Rescue. Urban Search & Rescue includes training in skills such as heavy lifting, breaching and shoring to name a few. Lake Stevens Fire has twelve Rescue Technicians assigned to the Snohomish County Technical Rescue Task Force.

Snohomish County Fire Departments contribute more than 100 Rescue Technicians to this task force. These departments and their technicians are divided into three zones. When there is a rescue that requires more technically trained personnel and or equipment than one fire department has, a zone response is requested. This is an important form of mutual aid because several of these disciplines are personnel and equipment intensive. Our involvement in this countywide program allows Lake Stevens Fire to maximize our resources.

The twelve Rescue Technicians currently assigned to The Snohomish County Technical Rescue Task Force are: Captain Mike Barry, Captain Bruce Huston, Lieutenant Travis Welch, Firefighter Ray Kosiba, Firefighter Del Divers, Firefighter Augie Cardona, Firefighter Jon Dudder, Paramedic Firefighter Dave Safford, Paramedic Firefighter Dennis Weisenberger, Paramedic Firefighter Shane Nelson, and our newest members Paramedic Firefighter Ron Rasmussen and Paramedic Firefighter Patrick Terry.

Stringent training requirements are set for these Rescue Technicians. Technicians must attend specialized training in each discipline annually. Rescue Technicians from all three zones train together at special drill sites throughout Snohomish County. This ensures continuity in training and good working relations when mutual aid arrives. Lake Stevens Fire has one of these drill sites located at our Machias Fire Station. Behind the fenced off area is a training tower and props for several disciplines.

Now you know what the word **Rescue** represents. We are proud to be able to provide these special skills to our citizens.

Snohomish County Technical Rescue Response Team training pictured on the right.



There is currently no additional burn ban in effect.

Residential burn permits are available at no cost allowing a maximum burn pile size of 4x4x3.
Land Clearing burn permits are available for \$75 allowing a maximum burn pile size of 20x10.
Permits are available as long as you are not located in the Prohibited Outdoor Burning Area.



Response Standard Becomes Law

Article by Deputy Chief Adkins

In 2005 Legislators passed “House Bill 1756” which requires fire departments to implement a response standard by 2007. The intent of the new law is for fire departments to set performance measures applicable to response times for major alarms such as cardiac arrest, house fire and hazardous materials. Ultimately our goal is to reach a person with defibrillator capabilities before the onset of brain death and extinguish a fire before a home is fully engulfed in flames.

The Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Washington State Council of Firefighters partnered to develop the response standard. The new law mandates specific standards be established and measured by most fire departments around the state. Lake Stevens Fire has assembled a “Standard Development Team” to begin the task of analyzing our responses.

Fire agencies across the state will be required to report on this new law annually. The report will also require Lake Stevens Fire to identify standards not being met by our department and the steps necessary to achieve the law.

The new standard will require a large amount of geographical research, and response data collection from the fire department and dispatch center. The response measures will focus on the initial response and travel time of the first emergency vehicle until they arrive at the emergency. Lake Stevens Fire is committed to respond and mitigate the emergency event as safely and quickly as possible.

Lake Stevens Fire is *your* fire department and we are dedicated to providing our community with the best possible emergency services to keep you, your family, and property safe!

Visit our updated website at:
www.lakestevensfire.org

Are You Registered to Vote?

Voter registration cards are available at our post office, library, and Village License Agency. They are also provided in our new resident packets for Lake Stevens, located at the Chamber Office and City Hall.

How Can We Serve You?

Do you have working smoke detectors in each bedroom of your home? Don't wait until an emergency to find out. Please call us if you need a smoke detector! Grant funds allow us to provide you these services.

Would you like your blood pressure checked? Please feel free to stop by Station 81 or Station 82 anytime. As long as the crews are in, they are happy to take a blood pressure check for you!

Feel free to call Fire Prevention Specialist Robert Marshall at phone #425 212 3042 with any questions.

Climbing for a Cure

Article by Josh Olsen, Association President

Your Lake Stevens firefighters are once again tackling the stairs of Seattle's tallest building, the Bank of America building. Ten firefighters will be donning their full bunker gear along with SCBA (air pack) and ascending 69 floors to the best view in Seattle. Last year the Stairclimb Team's average time was 25-26 minutes and they raised over \$3,000.

February 25th the Stairclimb Team hosted a Safety Fair to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Safety Fair was open 9am—4pm in the parking lot in front of Albertsons, Lake Stevens Marketplace.

The fair included free blood pressure checks, sign-ups for free smoke detectors, tours of the fire engine and aid car, a chance to go through the Fire Safety House and observe Stairclimb Team member challenges.

We will donate 100% of all donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It was great to see you out there and thanks for joining us in our efforts in building a safer community!

Connecting with Our Community

Chief Faucett has been connecting with various community groups to let them know what Lake Stevens Fire is up to these days. This is just one of many ways



we are trying to improve community communications. Above Chief Faucett is meeting with the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association. If your community group has not yet heard from Chief Faucett and would like to do so, contact Laana Larson at phone # 425 212 3046 or email llarson@fd8.org.

Saving Lives at Home and Afar!

Article by Laana Larson

It was New Year's morning, and Firefighter Pat Cook was on vacation having breakfast with his wife and daughter in Puerto Vallarta. He was enjoying a cup of coffee when the waiter rushed over and asked if he knew how to swim. The waiter proceeded to tell him two men were drowning, just outside the restaurant.

Cook ran outside to the surf and kicked off his shoes. He plunged into the water and swam towards the individual who seemed in the most distress. By this time another good samaritan started rowing his boat out to this same individual. So Cook swam over to the second individual in distress who was bobbing up and down in the water. Cook told him to relax, grabbed him from behind and started to swim towards shore. Thankfully someone else was swimming out with a boogie board to help out. They rolled the individual up on top of it and brought him into shore.

One of the individuals was taken away by Aid car and the other was doing okay, although extremely exhausted. As Cook headed back to breakfast with his family, a grateful father stopped him to express his sincere gratitude.

Scholarship Available for High School Seniors!

This scholarship is provided by the
 Lake Stevens Firefighter Union & Association

Applications can be picked up at the
 high school counselor's office May 10-23

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000
 Applications Due: May 24th
 Qualifications: Graduating Senior and a 3.0 GPA

Preference will be given to those applicants with family members in fire service (not a requirement to apply)

Who Serves Those Who Serve?

Article by Chaplain Tim Moore

Lake Stevens Fire Department serves our community with excellence and commitment. They are with us in our most desperate times doing all they can to save both life and property. But who serves them? A few men have chosen to volunteer their time to lend collateral support to fire personnel through compassionate action. They are the chaplains of Lake Stevens Fire.

Imagine the difficulty of just making a necessary phone call to a family member, minister, or friend while paramedics in the next room attempt to save the life of a loved one. Chaplains help with necessary, but difficult tasks. They are on the scene as liaisons to communicate between fire personnel and family members. They make sure established support systems such as churches, ministers, family, and close friends are contacted to embrace and assist victims through desperate times. They lend support service to fire personnel so they can have laser focus in their life and property saving efforts. Finally, these men have a heart to serve, encourage, pray for, and support the men and women of Lake Stevens Fire who have dedicated their lives to making ours safer.

Lake Stevens Fire

Chaplains:

Kelly Baughman, Mike Baughman, Jerry Brady,
Tim Moore and Ron Sallee

It is a joy for me to serve with a team of chaplains who are examples of faith in action. The compassion and empathy flowing from their lives meet real needs and heal hurts in our community. Simply put, as chaplains our work is to care. My word to the rest of the chaplains is, "Your care is working!"

We Won!

Wyatt Wilson and Hunter Clatterbuck were excited to have Lake Stevens Firefighters Duncan and Lowe pick them up at school for a ride on the engine. Their destination was the local fire station for a tour. This prize was a result of the Chamber of Commerce raffle awarded to Sunnyside Preschool. The preschool in turn held a raffle for all the kids and their parents, where Wyatt and Hunter were the lucky winners! Sunnyside's raffle raised \$200.00 and it will go directly back to the Chamber of Commerce for student scholarships.



A Valuable Local Resource

Article by Deputy Chief Lingenfelter

On January 1, 2006 ambulance billing became an internal process at Lake Stevens Fire. For the past eight years any charges for ambulance transport have been sent for processing to an outside billing agency. Although this process has been very successful there was a cost associated with it. In May of 2005, Lake Stevens Fire began to explore the possibility of doing our own billing.

Much research has gone into available software, legal compliance issues, and specific rules and regulations governing ambulance billing, prior to the implementation of the internal billing process. This task has been accomplished by Sonya Dudder, our department's Office Assistant. She has undergone extensive training and has gained a great deal of knowledge and understanding about the billing process. Sonya can now be a valuable local resource, for those who may have questions about their billing issues.

Ambulance billing for transport is one of the few ways the department has to generate revenue outside of Fire and EMS tax assessments. Although the amount collected from billing is not sufficient to address the department's staffing, facility, and apparatus needs, it does help us to preserve essential services for the present.

Questions regarding billing should be addressed to Sonya Dudder at phone # 425 212 3041.

Welcome Chaplain Baughman!



Deputy Chief Lingenfelter with Chaplain Jerry Brady and Chaplain Mike Baughman welcome Chaplain Kelly Baughman on board with Lake Stevens Fire.

Welcome Fire Commissioner Peters!

Commissioner Michael J. Peters recently began his service with us as a Fire Commissioner in December, 2005.



"Hello, I am Mike Peters the newest member of your Lake Stevens Fire Board of Commissioners. For those of you who do not know me, I am a long time resident of Lake Stevens, about thirty years. My wife Sheila McKinnon and I are recently retired and live on Highway 92 near Lochsloy. We have two daughters, both were educated in the Lake Stevens school system and have since moved away. Before I retired in May of 2005, I was employed for 16 years by Lake Stevens Fire as a Firefighter, Fire Lieutenant, and Training Captain.

Our department faces many challenges in the next few years. A new Chief has come aboard with new ideas and energy. Our area is growing and changing and our department must keep up. The increasing demands of the community are taxing our existing facilities which must be expanded. Our resources are limited so financing must be found to support our growth. Yes, the next few years should be exciting and I thank you for allowing me to be of service to our district."

Citizens' Committee

If you are interested in serving on a citizens' committee for Lake Stevens Fire as the opportunities arise, please give us a call and let us know. We would be happy to let you know when the meetings occur. Our last citizens' committee meeting was in reference to updating our strategic plan. We greatly appreciated those who took the time to participate! Please contact Laana Larson at phone # 425 212 3046 or email at llarson@fd8.org if you are interested in being added to our list. Thank you.

**It is our
privilege to
serve you!**

Keeps On Rolling

Article by Robert Marshall,
Fire Prevention Specialist

It is hard to believe that Lake Stevens schools are participating for the 8th year in the National Fire Protection Association's "Risk Watch" Injury Prevention.



I remember the day in 1988, walking into then Ken Limon's office, Director of Elementary Learning for Lake Stevens Schools, Risk Watch module in hand, ready to plead my case for the school district to allow implementation of this new program. All I requested was to start with a few willing teachers and classes. What I received was more than even I expected. Ken saw the need for injury prevention education for our children and fully supported the effort. The program was later approved for implementation by the curriculum board and 28 classes began a process that just "keeps on rolling".

The Risk Watch program is currently being used in 130 classrooms by approximately 3,000 students, spanning preschool through the 6th grade. It has even grown outside the Lake Stevens schools to include numerous private preschools, Machias elementary, and Zion Lutheran School. A community coalition comprised of representatives from Lake Stevens Fire, Lake Stevens Police, Snohomish County Sheriff, and Everett Community College Nursing Program, visits classrooms monthly to help reinforce the injury prevention focuses and be role models for the participants.

Last fall the Lake Stevens "Risk Watch" program celebrated its 5th "Success or Save" as a result of 2 students discovering a handgun on the playground at Machias elementary. Following what they had learned in Risk Watch, they avoided serious injury to themselves and fellow students. This incident is an example of what Risk Watch is all about. Our children are being given the opportunity to learn safe practices intertwined with normal school education.

Thank you all for your continued support to keep Risk Watch "rolling on". Any questions can be directed to Robert Marshall, Fire Prevention Specialist, at phone # 425 212 3042.



Tips for Firefighters!

Article by Firefighter Pat Cook

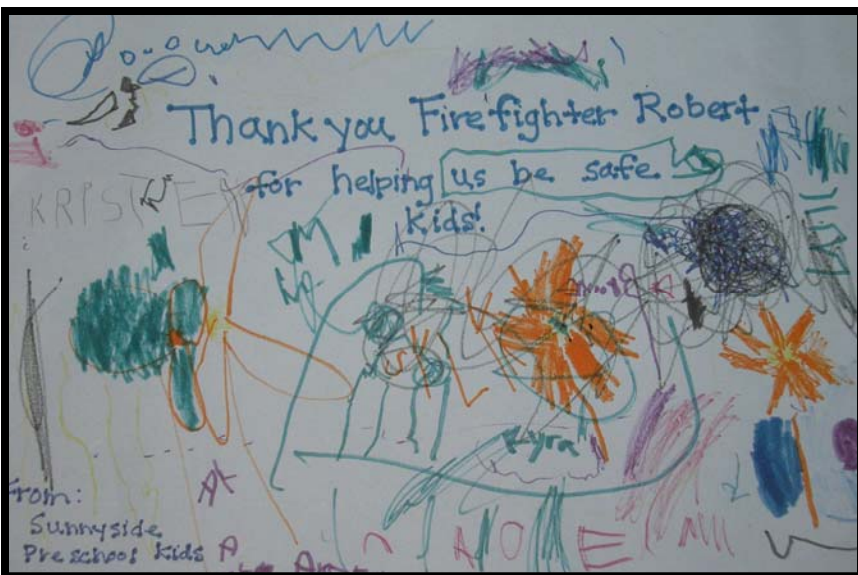
For the past two years Lake Stevens Firefighters have held a fundraiser called Tips for Firefighters at Ixtapa Restaurant. For years, our firefighters have been working with different charitable organizations to raise money to support their causes. This event raises monies for children in our community that are in need during Christmas. Over the past two years we have raised over five thousand dollars and have bought Christmas presents for more than one hundred children in the Lake Stevens area. Mark your calendar for next year. Tips for Firefighters will be held again at Ixtapa the first Saturday of December.

You're Invited!

Our Commissioner Meetings are now the second and fourth Thursday of every month and the public is welcome. This is a great way to stay informed on the happenings of Lake Stevens Fire. Hope to see you there!

Time: 9:30am

Place: 9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens



Our Community Message

**Preserve Essential Services
Maximize Our Resources
Stabilize District Funding
Improve Community Communications**



Association Delivers Thanksgiving Meals

Thank you to our Association for delivering Thanksgiving meals to a couple of our Lake Stevens families. The neighborhood children were very excited to have us show up!

2005 Is a Wrap!

Overall, Lake Stevens Fire provides Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Rescue service to an estimated 35,644 citizens in approximately 41.8 square miles of land and water. In 2005 Lake Stevens Fire responded to over 4,000 incidents. The majority of those calls were classified as medical calls. Lake Stevens Fire looks forward to the year 2006. It is our privilege to serve you!



Lake Stevens Fire New Mission Statement

**Serving People
Saving Life
Protecting Property**

Adopted by Board of Commissioners February 16, 2006