



# On Scene

WITH GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

FALL-WINTER 2021  
NEWSLETTER

## Chief's Corner

I've had the pleasure of serving as your Fire Chief for eight months now. The learning curve has been steep, but I feel like I'm getting my "sea legs." I am grateful to everyone in this agency and the community who has made my family feel so welcome. Thank you.

There are two priority issues I want to share. First is our levy for emergency medical service. EMS accounts for 78% of our emergency calls, and the lid lift that maintains funding for the program will expire at the end of 2022. We anticipate asking our community to renew it at the same rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value sometime next year.

Second, and more complex, are our facility needs. We recently completed a Capital Facilities Plan that identifies needed station improvements. Many of our stations are so old that they do not meet ADA requirements or seismic standards. They also lack living quarters to accommodate current and projected staffing levels and a diverse work force.

Training is critical in our industry, yet our Fire District has no facility for regular live-fire training. This means firefighters may only train on this skill once every three years and must leave the area to do so.

### FIRE CHIEF DENNIS DOAN



I believe strongly in caring for the firefighters who respond out of our stations every day.

Cancer is known to be a leading cause of death for those in the profession.

Some of our stations lack decontamination areas to remove soot, hydrocarbons and smoke – known carcinogens – from firefighting gear. We also require space to decontaminate medical equipment after emergency medical calls.

Adequate facilities are as important as firefighters and emergency apparatus to saving lives and property. Our operations budget is not able to cover these projects and still maintain the same level of service. As a result, we may ask voters to consider a bond in 2022 to finance these facility improvements. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. We appreciate your consideration of our request when the time comes.

In the meantime, thank you for supporting Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One. We wish you a peaceful, happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

## Planning for the Future

The Gig Harbor community has grown by more than 16% since 2010. Call volumes have increased 50% in the same time period. Emergency service planning is an important part of what we do to meet the needs of our growing community and aging population.

The Fire District recently completed two critical planning documents that outline areas of focus for the future. Our Capital Facilities Plan identifies capital needs, such as fire stations, apparatus and equipment. The Community Risk Assessment: Standard of Cover report assesses our daily operations, such as current staffing levels and response times. Both documents can be found on our website at [www.gigharborfire.org](http://www.gigharborfire.org).

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One provides fire and life safety services to 53,000 people over 54 square miles. The Fire District responded to a high of 6,685 calls in 2019. Your personal and financial support helps build one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Pierce County with highly-trained personnel and rescue programs. Thank you for partnering with us to save lives and property!



10222 Bujacich Road NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
(253) 851-3111  
[www.gigharborfire.org](http://www.gigharborfire.org)

  GigHarborFire  GigHarborFireMedicOne  [gig\\_harbor\\_fire\\_medic\\_one](https://www.instagram.com/gig_harbor_fire_medic_one)

# Santa is Coming to Town!

Back by popular demand, the jolly man with a white beard and red suit will be visiting some of our fire stations just in time for the holidays. It's a great opportunity to bring the kids for a photo with Santa and create some lasting memories.

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One is partnering with FISH Food Bank this holiday season to help local families in need. Please bring non-perishable food or toy donations when you swing by one of the stations for Santa visits. There will be a collection bin at Station 50 through the holidays. Food and gift cards are welcome!

**Santa visits from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.:**  
**Monday, December 6 – Rosedale (Station 55), 7710 Rosedale Street**  
**Tuesday, December 7 – Gig Harbor (Station 51), 6711 Kimball Drive**  
**Wednesday, December 8 – District Headquarters (Station 50), 10222 Bujacich Road NW**