



On Scene

WITH GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

SUMMER 2022
NEWSLETTER

Chief's Corner

I want to start this communication by saying, "thank you." It has been a busy year for Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One. Call volumes have increased by almost 13.1% compared to the same time last year. This number will increase during any kind of economic fluctuation.

This is because fire and emergency medical services provide a safety net for residents who may be struggling. EMS calls climb rapidly as people cope with stress and the subsequent medical emergencies, such as heart attacks and strokes. Particularly for our more vulnerable populations.

Along those lines, GHFMO is asking voters to consider a facilities bond in the upcoming election. The facility improvements aim to improve community safety and the health and safety of emergency personnel.

Adequate facilities are as important as firefighters and apparatus to saving lives and property. Our operations budget cannot cover these projects and maintain the same service level.

If approved by voters, the bond would renovate Stations 53 (Fox Island), 57 (Crescent Valley), 58 (Swede Hill), and 59 (Artondale). Station 51 (Gig Harbor) is our busiest facility and would be replaced to add space for emergency personnel and modern apparatus that doesn't fit into the current bays. The last project would be a live-fire training facility.

FIRE CHIEF DENNIS DOAN



Some stations do not meet ADA requirements or current seismic standards. They also lack living quarters to accommodate current and projected staffing levels and a diverse workforce.

A live-fire training facility will allow firefighters to train regularly on this critical skill instead of once every three years.

Bond-funded station projects also will improve the health and safety of our firefighters. 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.

Most people in our industry know of someone who has passed away due to a work-related illness. (Maybe you do, too.) I hope our community will recognize the importance of providing a safer and healthier work environment for the women and men who serve our community.

There is additional information about the facilities bond in this newsletter and on our website. As always, I welcome your questions at (253) 851-3111 or DDoan@gigharborfire.org. Thank you for considering our request.

Facilities Bond At-A-Glance

- WHO?** Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One
- WHAT?** Asking voters to consider a facilities bond in the August 2, 2022 Primary Election
- WHERE?**
 - Renovate:** Stations 53 (Fox Island), 57 (Crescent Valley), 58 (Swede Hill), and 59 (Artondale)
 - Replace:** Station 51 (Gig Harbor), our busiest station
 - Build:** A live fire training facility.
- WHEN?** During the August 2, 2022 Primary Election. Ballots must be returned or postmarked by this date to count.
- WHY?** To improve community safety, and the health and safety of our firefighters.
- HOW MUCH?** ~\$9.90 per month for the owner of a \$500,000 home.

More information on the facilities bond can be found at www.gigharborfire.org/about/bond.





10222 Bujacich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
(253) 851-3111
www.gigharborfire.org

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
IQ DIRECT
98201

  GigHarborFire  GigHarborFireMedicOne  gig_harbor_fire_medic_one



EMS Program Overview

Prevent Emergencies Before They Happen



Emergency Medical Service accounts for 78% of all emergency calls for our community. Our EMS program is funded by a levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which has fallen to \$0.44/1,000 since it was last approved in 2016. Your support means that we can provide the highest level of care – called “Advanced Life Support” – with skilled paramedics. It also funds ambulance transport services for Gig Harbor residents.

GHFMO works hard to educate residents about preventing fires or medical emergencies before they happen. One example of this is our water safety program. We also teach residents how to perform CPR and First Aid to help someone in need until firefighters can arrive. Another is teaching young people fire prevention education in our local schools.

Summertime is when car crashes spike during the 100 days from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We educate over 1,000 teens annually to prevent reckless and distracted driving through a program that includes two days of in class lessons and a mock crash.

Information about all community risk reduction programs can be found on our website. Please visit our website to learn more at www.gigharborfire.org and click on “Services.” Thank you for helping us save lives and property.