



On Scene

WITH GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

FALL 2022
NEWSLETTER

Chief's Corner

I love this time of year! It provides an opportunity to reflect on what we are most grateful for. For me, this includes my family and community (I also like an occasional round of golf).

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One had two measures on ballots this year: a capital facilities bond in August and an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) levy renewal in November. Both passed and we are grateful.

Renewal of our EMS levy is important because over 80% of all calls we receive are for medical emergencies. We will also be asking voters to approve a Fire Levy renewal in 2023. Just like the EMS levy renewal, the Fire Levy is not a new tax. It is a renewal of an existing tax that we ask voters to approve every 6 years. These are big investments for any community, we recognize that and appreciate your support.

Now it's time to talk about progress! The bond will build a new training facility, renovate Stations 53

FIRE CHIEF DENNIS DOAN

(Fox Island), 57 (Crescent Valley), 58 (Swede Hill), and 59 (Artondale) and rebuild Station 51 (Gig Harbor), our busiest facility. Space will be added to house emergency personnel and modern apparatus that doesn't fit into the current bays.



We will continue to report back to you as these projects take shape.

On a personal level, I want to thank you for supporting a healthier work environment for our emergency personnel. Cancer is a leading cause of death in our profession. I have lost several friends and it is gut-wrenching to think those losses could have been prevented.

We are so very grateful to have our community partner with us to save lives and property. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Preventing Home Fires This Winter

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires happen more often during the winter months than any other time of the year. Now is the perfect time to share some safe heating tips to keep your home safe this winter:

- Have your heating system regularly maintained and checked annually.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed in every bedroom and on every level of your home.
- Make sure you have a carbon monoxide monitor.
- Test alarms monthly to ensure they are working.

If you are using a wood stove or fireplace:

- Have yearly chimney inspections and cleanings.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Before you go to sleep or leave your home, put the fire out completely.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.

If you are using a portable heater:

- Never use an extension cord or power strip.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off.
- Turn heater off before leaving the room or sleeping.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least 3 feet from the heater.



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Santa is Back!

One of Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One's longest running traditions is Santa Runs. This year, we will be back in our community, with Santa in tow, collecting food and toy donations. In partnership with FISH Food Bank, we will help families in need this holiday season.

Look for Santa in your neighborhood from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates (visit our website for details www.gigharborfire.org):

- Monday, December 5
- Tuesday, December 6
- Wednesday, December 7
- Thursday, December 8
- Friday, December 9