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POULSBO FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

*[www.poulsbofire.org](http://www.poulsbofire.org) / 360 779-3997 / 911 NE Liberty Bay, Poulsbo WA, 98370*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**03**

**Message from our Fire Chief**

**05**

**Leadership**

**07**

**Operations**

**12**

**Staffing & Fleet**

**17**

**Human Resource**

**21**

**In The Community**

**04**

**About Poulsbo Fire**

**06**

**COVID-19 Response**

**10**

**Community Risk Reduction**

**15**

**Training**

**20**

**Finance**



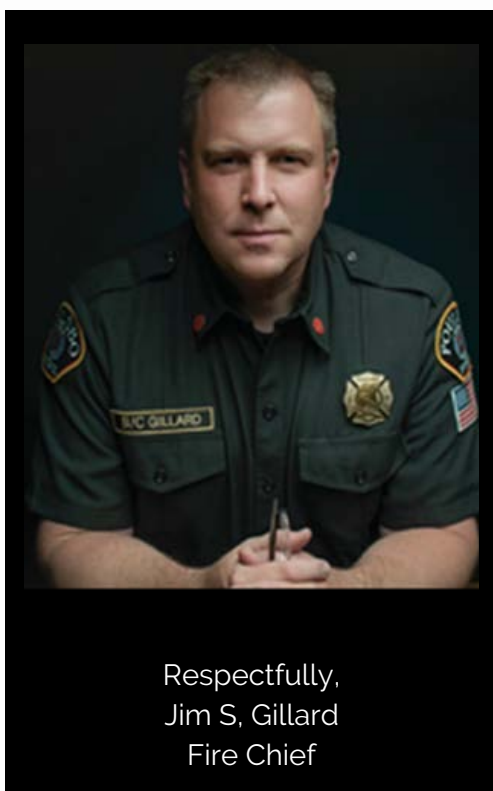
# MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF

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The mission of the Poulsbo Fire Department is to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of our community. Our organization has been dedicated to this mission since the inception of the Poulsbo Fire Department in 1936. Evolving from an all-volunteer fire department into a professional all-hazards emergency response agency, our commitment to protecting our community has not changed. I submit this annual report for 2021 to the Board of Commissioners and the community we are privileged to serve.

While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every aspect of life in 2021, our service to the community continued without interruption. The department maintained our staffing levels and avoided significant outbreaks within our workforce. Most of this success is from our personnel achieving a 100% vaccination rate and a commitment to following the infection control procedures to protect coworkers and the community. Despite the continuing pandemic, the department continued moving forward in our level of services provided to the community.

2021 brought the first full year of implementing the department's strategic plan adopted in 2020. This plan included a significant emphasis on community risk reduction programs, incorporating fire prevention and injury/illness prevention into the operations section of the department. This came to fruition through the creation of the Poulsbo Fire CARES team and the assignment of a full-time Deputy Fire Marshal.



Respectfully,  
Jim S. Gillard  
Fire Chief

The Poulsbo Fire Department continued to see an increased demand for emergency response services throughout the pandemic. Increases in emergency call volume and growth in the community have created the necessity to invest in emergency response capabilities to maintain service levels.

The department's strategic plan provides for the placement of emergency response personnel in the Viking Ave corridor to reduce the necessity of other stations to cover this area and reduce response times throughout the fire district. The financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic delayed the planned capital bond initiative to fund the construction of a station on Viking Ave in 2021.

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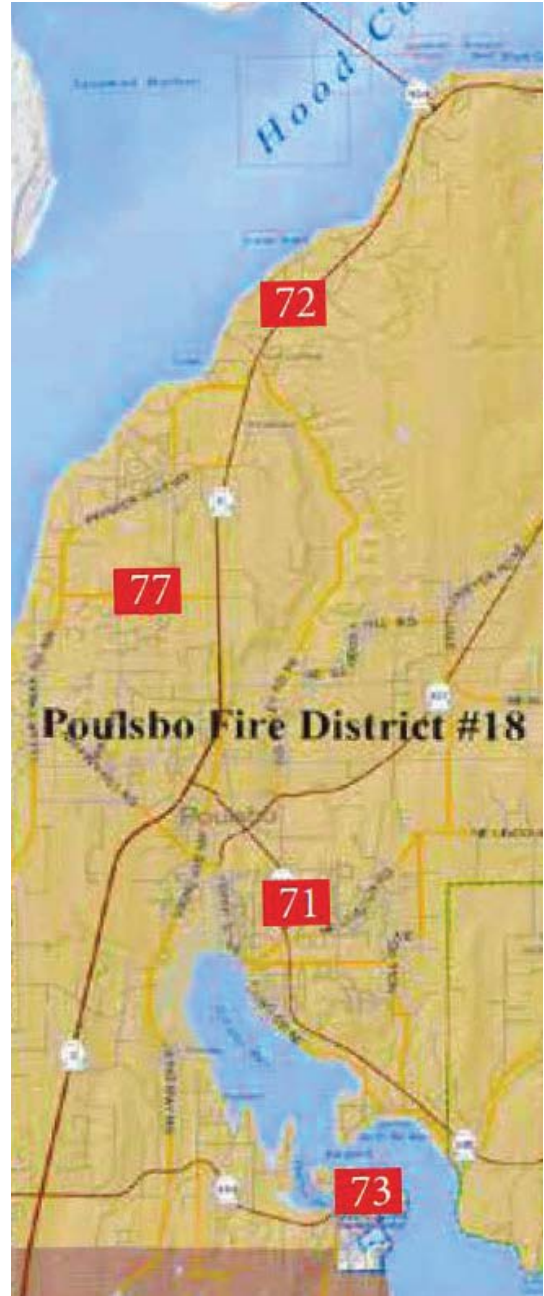
The following annual report is intended to communicate how the department served the community in 2021.

# ABOUT POULSBO FIRE

The Poulsbo Fire Department is an all-hazard emergency response agency, providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services to the 27,000 residents of Kitsap County Fire Protection District #18. The Fire District protects the City of Poulsbo and the unincorporated area of North Kitsap from Keyport to Port Gamble.

Poulsbo Fire is a combination department with 45 career firefighters supported by emergency response volunteers and administrative and support employees. In 2021, the department again responded to over 4,400 emergency calls out of four fire stations, three of which are staffed 24 hours a day.

The District is governed by an elected board of commissioners and is a municipal corporation formed under RCW 52.02 for the provision of fire prevention, fire suppression services, emergency medical services, and protection of life and property.



## MISSION

The mission of the Poulsbo Fire Department is to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of our community.

## VISION

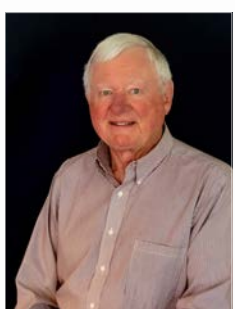
Our vision is to build upon the community's trust in us to protect their family, neighbors, and property as we would our own.

## OUR MOTTO: "THEM"

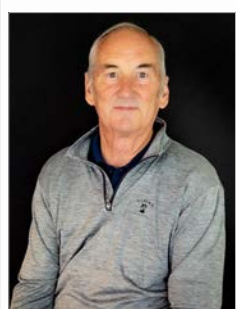
Every action is to be done with the mindset of serving those that rely upon us for their safety and well-being. It is about those we serve, those we serve with, and those who allow us to serve.

# BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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**Dave  
Ellingson**



**Jim  
Ingalls**



**Darryl  
Milton**



**Chris  
Quinn**



**Jeff  
Uberuaga**

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**JIM GILLARD**  
FIRE CHIEF

**SHANE ANDERSON**  
BATALLIAN CHIEF-TRAINING

**JUSTIN ZEIGLER**  
BATALLIAN CHIEF-B SHIFT

**KURT KRECH**  
BATTALIAN CHIEF-VOLUNTEER

**JACOB GILLANDERS**  
MEDICAL OFFICER

**LISE ALKIRE**  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

**BRETT ANNEAR**  
FLEET MANGER

**JEFF RUSSELL**  
DEPUTY CHIEF- OPERATIONS

**CHRIS RAHL**  
BATALLIAN CHIEF-A SHIFT

**CRAIG BECKER**  
BATALLIAN CHIEF-C-SHIFT

**TOM HARVEY**  
DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL

**WENDY LUTHER**  
FINANCE MANAGER

**NICHOLE SAWYERS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER

# 2021

## COVID-19 RESPONSE



Throughout 2021 the Poulsbo Fire Department continued to manage our response to the Covid-19 pandemic in accordance with guidance, requirements, and recommendations from other government agencies. Specific measures included maintaining front office closure, mask-wearing in the station and on calls, and measures to keep both our providers and our citizens safe. In September 2021, in line with the Washington State governor's mandate, the department requested all department personnel to become vaccinated, and by October 2021, Poulsbo Fire Department was a fully vaccinated organization.

# COVID-19



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# OPERATIONS

Since 1936, the Poulsbo Fire Department has been protecting our community. For many years after our formation, our citizens were protected by a volunteer cadre of dedicated community members focusing solely on firefighting. Today, the Poulsbo Fire Department proudly serves 28,000 citizens as an all-hazards emergency response agency with fifty-three (53) career members, of which seventeen (17) are paramedics, and twenty-three (23) are EMTs. These incidents include extinguishing structures and wildland fires, emergency medical services, and transport, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous materials, water-based emergencies, and natural and man-made disasters. In 2021, we responded to over 4,400 emergencies, an eight percent increase from 2020. Additionally, we provide fire and EMS prevention services, understanding that preventing crises is far better than responding to emergencies.

The Poulsbo Fire Department continues to face many of the same challenges as it has in the past that affect response times, including narrow streets; steep roadway grades; and older historical buildings that have limited access, but do not have fire protection systems. New and increasing challenges include becoming an economic and medical hub for the northern Kitsap Peninsula, increased traffic, new commercial and residential developments, increasing population, and an increase in the transient population. All of these impacts create a greater demand for emergency services. Our goal is to be proactive in our responses to the continued growth of our community.

Over the next few years, the City of Poulsbo's population is expected to increase by 15%. Last year, the district's board of commissioners purchased a property on Viking Avenue for a new fire station. Based on increased demands for service, this proposed fire station will increase reliability and reduce response times throughout our community.

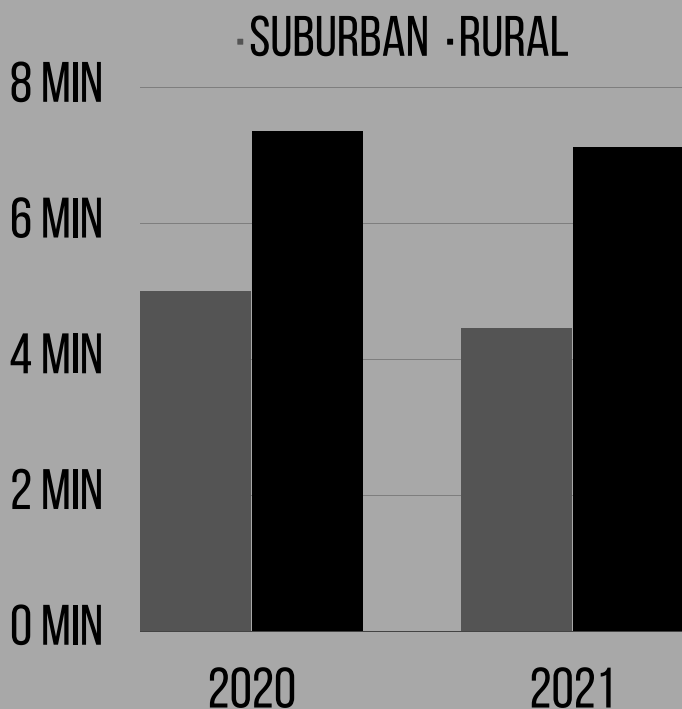
Emergency responses are not affected by jurisdictional boundaries. All Kitsap County fire agencies work together under a single agreement, ensuring that the closest fire department apparatus responds to any serious incident regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. In essence, this creates one single emergency response fire department throughout Kitsap County. This is just one of the ways that your Poulsbo Fire Department works to provide excellent service.

# FIRE & AID ACTIVITY

## EMS VS. FIRE CALLS



## RESPONSE TIMES



# 2021 STATS

## 4,476

### TOTAL CALLS

1,805 FIRE CALLS

2,671 EMS CALLS

## 10.7%

### INCREASE FROM 2020

## TYPES OF CALLS

### 924

#### ALS CALLS

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES

### 1,747

#### BLS CALLS

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES

## 4:45 MINUTES

FOR CITY AND URBAN GROWTH AREA (UGA) AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

\*THE 90% FRACTAL TIME WAS 7:18 MIN

## 7:12 MINUTES

FOR NON-UGA RURAL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

\*THE 90% FRACTAL TIME WAS 10:44 MIN

\*THE 90% FRACTAL TIME PROVIDES THE TOTAL RESPONSE TIME TO 90% OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSES. THIS METRIC, IN COMPARISON TO AVERAGE TOTAL RESPONSE TIME, LARGELY MEASURES THE IMPACT OF THE TIME IN WHICH AN APPARATUS IS NOT AVAILABLE TO RESPOND, REFERRED TO AS UNIT UTILIZATION. .



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS



## RAPID ENTRY RESCUE SWIMMER PROGRAM

Poulsbo Fire Department currently has four active rescue swimmers trained to respond to emergencies that involve water rescue, assessment, and rendering medical aid to persons in distress. The department's rescue swimmers are exposed to all elements, including the waters of the Puget Sound, which has an average temperature of 46.4 degrees. Training involves a 40-hour class, specific fitness requirements, and ongoing training to ensure their safety. Each rescue swimmer is equipped with a manually inflated personal floatation device, mask, snorkel, fins, and weight belt.

## TECHNICAL RESCUE

Captain Jake Gillanders leads the Kitsap County Special Operations Team (KSORT). The KSORT provides technical and specialty rescue services. Currently, four members from the Poulsbo Fire Department serve on this team. In 2021 the department added a complete set of heavy-duty stabilization struts that will allow our crews to stabilize vehicles quickly and support loads of up to 80,000 pounds.



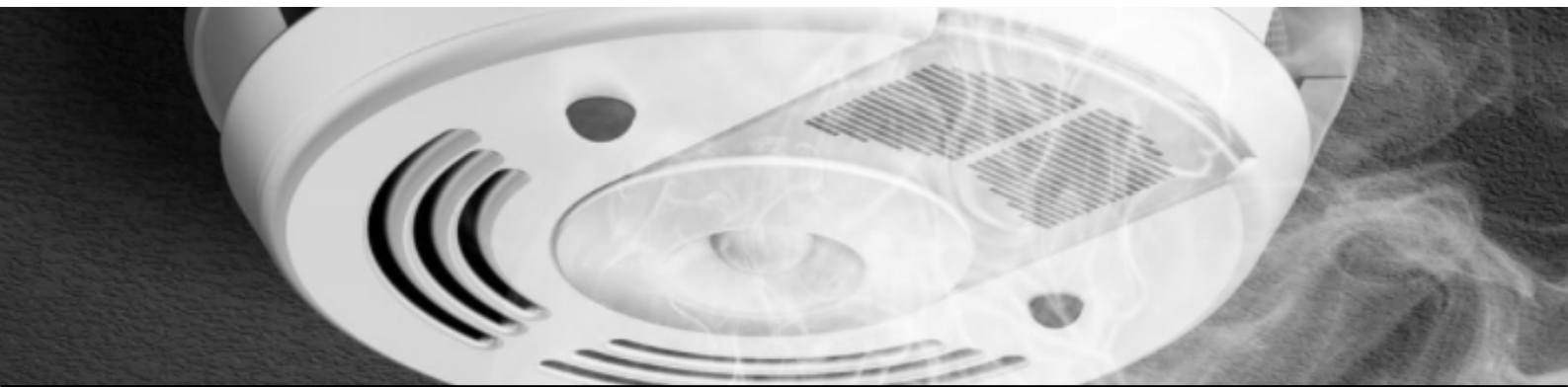
## WILDLAND

Poulsbo Fire Department currently has eight career members and several volunteers that make up the Poulsbo Wildland Team (PWT). The PWT is specially trained and equipped for local, state, and federal mobilization. In 2021 the PWT began developing a "community risk reduction" program to address natural disasters, including local risk management and prevention of wildland fires. In 2021 the PWT re-evaluated the district's wildland asset strength and capability and requested the purchase of a Type 6 Wildland Fire Engine, expected to arrive in 2022.

## MARINE

The marine program includes two dedicated marine apparatus that provide fire and rescue support for more than 20 miles of shoreline in the fire district. Marine 71 is a 19ft Safe Boat and Marine 74 is a 28ft North River Fire Boat. All career personnel are trained to operate Marine 71. There are currently 15 qualified pilots for Marine 74, with all response personnel trained as deckhands. In 2021 Marine 74 responded to 33 incidents while Marine 71 responded to 8.





# FIRE PREVENTION


## Our Mission

is to educate the public on how to take precautions that will prevent fires and recognize hazards. In 2021 Poulsbo Fire Department assigned Lieutenant Tom Harvey as the Deputy Fire Marshal.

The services that Lieutenant Harvey provides to the community of Poulsbo are:

- Conduct plan reviews to ensure new construction and renovations comply with the international fire code
- Improving and implementing changes depending on the results of the report
- Conduct annual fire inspections in commercial buildings to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local codes, laws, and ordinances
- Conduct line safety inspections to assist and make recommendations for our community members in their homes
- Assist with the issuance and installation of key boxes or Knox® boxes for both commercial and residential community members
- Assist community members with the installation and inspection of smoke alarms

<i>Poulsbo Fire - Commercial Fire and Life Safety Inspections</i>					
Jurisdiction	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
City of Poulsbo	6	200	19	105	557
Kitsap County	1	138	23	36	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>667</b>



## Home Fire Safety Survey

**General**

**Yes**    **No**   Home has smoke alarms on every level.


**Yes**    **No**   Home has a smoke alarm in every bedroom.

**Yes**    **No**   Smoke alarms are located outside each separate sleeping area.

**Yes**    **No**   Smoke alarms are located at least 10 feet from a stationary or fixed cooking appliance.

**Yes**    **No**   For larger homes (where the interior floor area on a given level is greater than 1,000 square feet), there is an average of at least 1 smoke alarm for every 500 square feet.

[See NFPA 72-2007 11.5.1.3, 29.5.1.3 (2010)]





*Lt. Tom Harvey is originally from Chicago, IL, and has been a professional firefighter since 1984. He began his career in the U.S. Air Force, serving overseas in England. He then worked as a contract firefighter in the Marshall Islands, which led him to Subase Bangor Fire and then Poulsbo Fire Department in 1998. Tom was promoted to lieutenant in 2008 and holds an associate's degree in Fire Command Administration from Olympic College. Lt. Harvey is also a certified fire inspector through the National Fire Protection Association.*

# POULSBO FIRES CARES

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Poulsbo Fire CARES (Community Assistance, Referral, and Education Service) is Poulsbo Fire Department's mobile integrated health response unit. Launched in January 2021, this partnership between the Poulsbo Fire Department, the City of Poulsbo, and Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic responds to individuals struggling with behavioral health issues. The CARES team assists the individual in navigating the situation and obtaining a solution. This can be medical attention, mental health care, substance use disorder services, or other care.

Staffed by a firefighter/EMT trained in crisis intervention and a behavioral health professional, the CARES unit is a multidisciplinary team aiming to prevent a crisis by being proactive in the field. The goal of the CARES program is to connect individuals to appropriate care and services, reducing the impact of non-emergency calls on fire and police departments. Poulsbo Fire CARES accepts fire and police referrals across North Kitsap communities—including Poulsbo, Suquamish, and Bainbridge Island. The team works closely with area schools and service providers to improve access to care. Many of our most vulnerable don't know where to turn during these challenging times.

The CARES program is a proven model encouraged by the Washington State Legislature (RCW 35.21.930) that improves outcomes, reduces costs, and helps individuals who have difficulty accessing care. The CARES team is not just a one-time service, but an ongoing support initiative.



## CARES

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, REFERRAL, AND EDUCATION SERVICE



E-Engine, M-Medic Unit, BN-Batallion, PM-Paramedic, FF-Firefighter, EMT-Emergency Medical Technician.

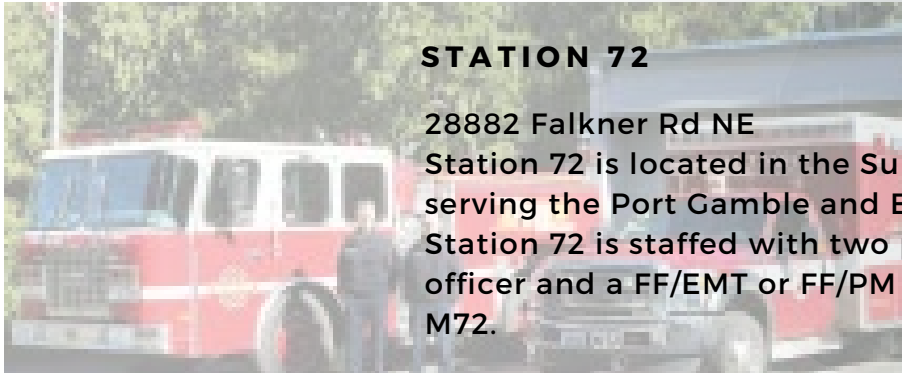
# STATIONS & STAFFING



## STATION 71

911 NE Liberty Rd

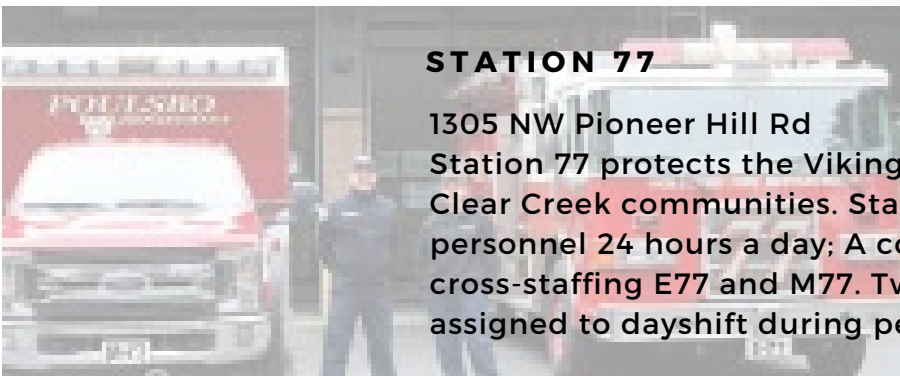
Station 71 has five personnel assigned each shift: E71 with a company officer and FF/EMT; M71 with a FF/PM and a FF/EMT; and BN71 with the shift Battalion Chief, who is either an EMT or paramedic.



## STATION 72

28882 Falkner Rd NE

Station 72 is located in the Surfrest neighborhood, serving the Port Gamble and Edgewater communities. Station 72 is staffed with two personnel: A company officer and a FF/EMT or FF/PM cross-staffing E72 and M72.



## STATION 77

1305 NW Pioneer Hill Rd

Station 77 protects the Viking Ave corridor, Olhava, and Clear Creek communities. Station 77 is staffed with two personnel 24 hours a day; A company officer and FF/PM cross-staffing E77 and M77. Two additional FF/EMTs are assigned to dayshift during peak hours.



## STATION 73

1863 Northeast Pacific Avenue

Station 73 is located in Keyport; this volunteer-staffed station houses a basic life support aid unit and a fire engine. It also houses the antique Model-T fire engine.

# OUR FLEET

## Fire Engines (Pumpers)

- Engine 71A, 1992 E-One
- Engine 71, 2016 Spartan
- Engine 72A, 1996 E-One (reserve)
- Engine 73, 1996 E-One
- Engine 77, 2016 Spartan

## Aid/Medic Units

- Medic 71, 2015 Ford/Lifeline
- Aid 71, 2013 Ford/Lifeline
- Medic 72, 2015 Ford/Lifeline
- Aid 73, 1999 Ford/Lifeline
- Medic 77, 2015 Ford/Lifeline
- Aid 77, 2018 Ford/Lifeline

## Water Tenders

- Tender 71, 1999 S&S
- Tender 77, 1999 S&S

## Marine Vessels

- Marine 74, 2017 28' North River  
(moored at Port of Poulsbo)
- Marine 71, 2007 19' Safeboat







2021

# RE-CHASSIS

Medic-Unit 321 is twenty-one years old and just had its third re-chassis completed in December 2021. Poulsbo Fire Department decided to re-chassis for a 3rd time due to the substantial cost-benefit vs. purchasing new. Keeping the box and replacing the chassis has allowed the department to save the public money. Led by Fleet Manager Brett Annear, the complete re-chassis was completed in 90 days.

Medic-Unit 321 is now outfitted with the following:

- Upgraded LED emergency lighting
- Upgrade to LED scene lighting
- Upgrade to LED interior patient area lighting
- New dual backup/patient area camera, with screen, mounted in rear view mirror.
- Complete re-paint of the exterior to match the existing ambulance fleet.
- Upgraded suspension system with liquid spring system
- Striping and lettering to match the current ambulance fleet.
- Upgraded to a 4-point harness belt to increase safety.
- Increased capacity for patient seating
- Added new UV lighting/HEPA filtration system to ensure clean cab.
- New diamond plate step panels for driver/passenger door and rear step.
- New turn signal/brake indicator lights
- New patient area for care provider's awareness and safety.



The cost for a new Medic-Unit is approximate \$250,000.00. The price tag for the re-chassis was \$165,604.00. Even though the medic unit has been in service since 1999, it has a brand new look! Each time we have chosen to re-chassis vs. purchasing new has saved us an average of \$89,333.00.

## \$84,000

WE SAVED

## \$268,000

OVERALL SAVINGS





# KITSAP COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CONSORTIUM.

**Mission:** *Develop and deliver superior training to improve performance and safety.*

**Vision:** *Unify and enhance regional training that improves operational consistency, implements industry best practices, and promotes a shared culture of excellence.*

**In 2021 Poulsbo Fire Department joined Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bremerton Fire Department, Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, North Kitsap Fire and Rescue, and South Kitsap Fire and Rescue to create the Kitsap County Fire Training Consortium. Joining training activities and operations allows the different departments to collaborate and share fiscal responsibility.**

## TRAINING

Training	Hours	Courses
EMS Training	241 Hours	This training includes CPR and Emergency Medical Services training.
Fire Training	7,528 Hours	This training covers the bulk of training for fire suppression, health & safety, incident management and much more.
Other	2,641 Hours	This training includes wildland, hazmat and administrative training.

# HOW WE TRAIN





# HUMAN RESOURCES

## WELCOME ABOARD



Nichole Sawyers is the newest team member to join the department. Nichole serves as the Administrative Services Manager and assists the department with their administrative needs. Previous to joining our department, Nichole worked at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard building a career in administrative services.



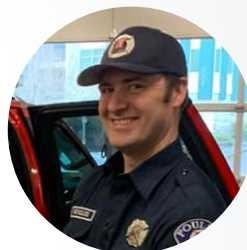
Aaron Kronlund grew up in Puyallup. He served as a volunteer firefighter at South Whatcom Fire Authority, followed by seven years as a career firefighter with Brinnon Fire. He holds an A.A. in Fire Science from Everett Community College and a B.A from Western Washington University. Aaron enjoys spending time with his wife, Cydney, their two daughters, and the family dog.



Josh France is from Mount Vernon. Josh joined Big Lake Fire Department in 2017, also working part-time at District 13 in LaConner. He worked for two years at the Department of Natural Resources NW, based in Sedro Woolley, going on many trips to Eastern Washington to fight wildfires. Josh's interests are hiking, playing guitar, shooting his bow, and exploring his new home in Poulsbo.



Kevin Fowler comes to Poulsbo from the Tacoma area. He was a volunteer firefighter with Ruston Fire Department and worked as an emergency room technician at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. Kevin is passionate about the fire service and emergency medicine and hopes to further his education by attending paramedic school in the future. Kevin enjoys the outdoors, cooking, and spending time with his wife and dog.

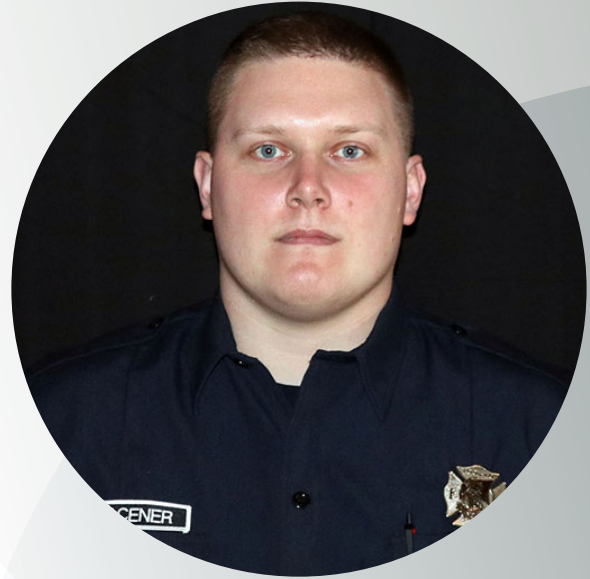


Chris Reynolds grew up in Puyallup. Chris started his fire service career with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a wildland firefighter, then completed the Bates Technical College Fire Science program. Chris joined Poulsbo Fire Department in 2021. Chris stays busy exploring the Pacific Northwest with his wife Alicia and their two daughters.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## COMPLETED PROBATIONARY PERIOD



Congratulations to Firefighter/EMT Jeffrey A. Van Houten and Firefighter/EMT Tanner E. Stracener for completing their probationary period. Due to the pandemic, the public ceremony has been postponed until further notice.



# HAPPY RETIREMENT



## **BRUCE PETERSON (32 YEARS)**

Bruce started with Poulsbo Fire Department as a volunteer in 1987 and, having a mechanical background, was later hired as our fleet mechanic/firefighter. He worked as a mechanic, firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, and deputy chief of operations. Bruce completed his career serving as the department's deputy chief of administration, retiring in 2021.



## **KURT SERWOLD (22 YEARS)**

Kurt joined the Poulsbo Fire Department in 1999. Kurt has served the citizens of Poulsbo as a firefighter and then lieutenant. He was instrumental in managing our marine firefighting and surface water rescue program for much of his career.

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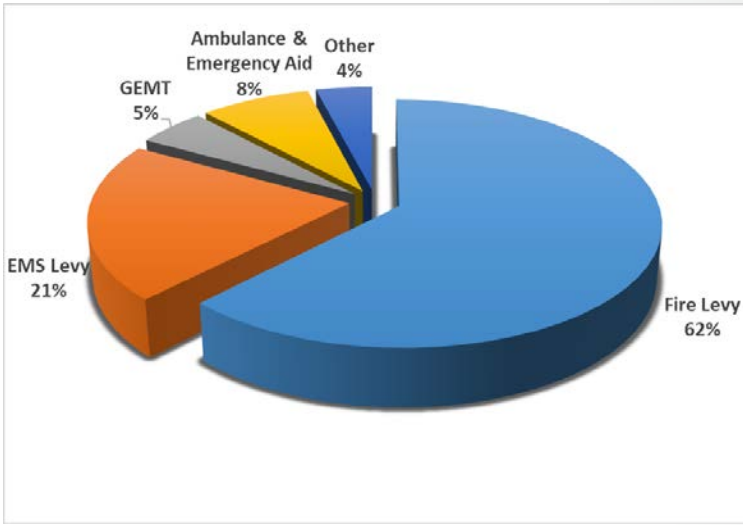
## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Jody Matson was with the Poulsbo Fire Department for almost 15 years. Jody served as our Community Relations Specialist providing information and training to the public.



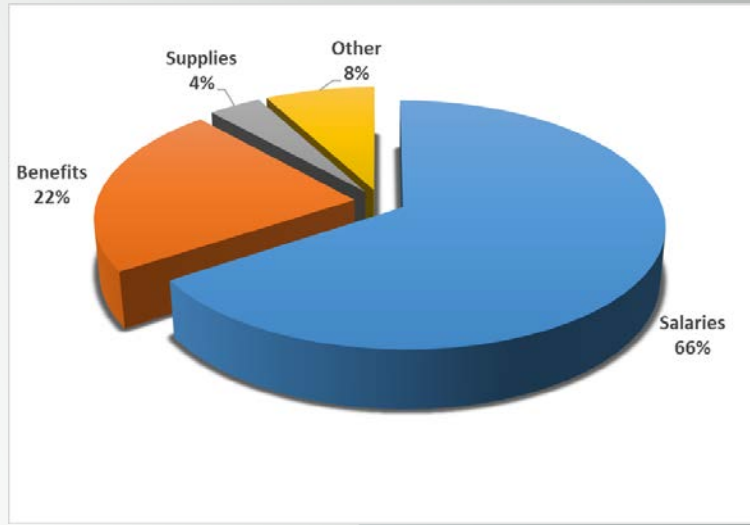
# FINANCE

## 2021 REVENUE



Fire Levy.....	\$7,215,332
EMS Levy.....	\$2,405,111
GEMT.....	\$577,517
Ambulance & Emergency Aid.....	\$917,426
Other.....	\$467,059
<b>Total 2021 Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$11,582,446</b>

## 2021 EXPENDITURES



Salaries.....	\$6,609,532
Benefits.....	\$2,273,315
Supplies.....	\$383,753
Other.....	\$794,359
<b>Total 2021 Expenditures.....</b>	<b>\$10,060,957</b>

Poulsbo Fire Department is primarily funded through property taxes. The normal levies are a permanent fire levy and a six-year EMS levy. In 2021 levy revenue provided 83% of the district's total revenue. Additional revenue is generated through a fee for service patient transport and Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program.

Poulsbo Fire strives for fiscal responsibility, controlling costs, and transparency. As a public agency, our revenue source is linked to stable income from taxes, limited by state law. These limitations make it necessary to regularly ask for voter approval to ensure the tax rates keep pace with inflation and costs to sustain service levels for our growing community. To reduce the impact and provide a stable funding stream, levies will be staggered on a six-year cycle. The department continues to pursue revenue sources to reduce the community burden, including expanding fee for services, impact mitigation fees, state and federal grants.

In 2021, a formal strategic plan was implemented. This plan has helped the district identify short and long-term capital needs amounting to \$9.35 million. With the COVID-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty, the district has delayed plans to pursue funding, not to burden the citizens of the department. In 2026 to achieve the capital funding needs of the district, we anticipate pursuing an excess levy. The department intends to pursue shorter-term capital bonds, allowing the flexibility to reassess needs and priorities prior to successive excess levy measures.

The annual expenditure budget is approved by the elected board of commissioners. An adoption of the district's five-year projections is used as a planning tool to ensure financial sustainability and the ability to grow with the community while maintaining service levels.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

Due to COVID-19, the department could not participate in as many functions as in previous years; however, we still were able to attend a few!



## TEACHING

Poulsbo Fire Department's Lieutenant Beach is providing hands-on instruction to some students at North Kitsap High School.

## HALLOWEEN

Poulsbo Fire Department participated in a drive-through trick-or-treat event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.



## SANTA TOURS

Another year the crews have been able to visit the children of our community to collect donations for the North Kitsap Fishline while escorting Santa from our specially made sled.

By the numbers:

- 8 evening Santa tours
  - 70 miles of neighborhood roads
  - 300 volunteer hours (thanks to Poulsbo Fire Department, Kitsap County Deputy Sheriffs Guild, and the Kitsap Fire Fighters Union, IAFF Local 2819)
  - 1,700 candy canes
- Totaling...\$120 and 1,480 pounds for donation.



