

# The Pulse

## Proposition 1

### Capital bond measure to appear on Aug. 4 ballot for Poulsbo Fire district voters

On Aug. 4, voters within the Poulsbo Fire Department district will vote on Proposition 1, a capital bond measure to fund equipment and facility needs. Much of the department's apparatus and equipment has reached the end of its service life. If approved, the bond would cost the owner of a median-valued home in the district about \$7.92 per month for six years. This measure will not affect North Kitsap Fire & Rescue residents.

#### What it would fund

The bond is limited to projects identified as immediate priorities.

Built in 1990 to support an annual call volume of 1,844 calls, Station 71's apparatus bay and fleet maintenance facility has outgrown its original footprint. To keep pace with population growth and increased emergency demands, which reached 4,594 calls in 2025, the same facility is now required to support the maintenance and performance of 10 fire suppression apparatus, six medic units, two marine units and 12

support vehicles. Expanding the capacity for response apparatus, fleet maintenance and support functions will ensure the department can continue to maintain operational readiness and meet the community's increasing emergency response needs.

The department's self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) have reached the end of their service life. SCBAs are a critical element of firefighter protective equipment, providing them with a clean, independent air supply when entering burning or toxic environments.

Two medic units have reached the end of their service life. Ambulances log heavy mileage quickly, and delays in replacement increase the risk of mechanical failure resulting in less response capacity. A fire engine and a marine response unit, both over 30 years old, have also reached the end of their service life. Aging apparatus cost more to maintain, are less reliable and



lack modernized features that enhance safety and efficiency.

#### What it would cost

At an estimated rate of \$0.18 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the bond would cost the owner of a home valued at \$528,283, the district's median home value, approximately \$95.09 per year, or \$7.92 per month for six years.

Senior citizens and disabled persons who meet income requirements may be eligible for exemptions from some property taxes. Contact Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160 for details.

*Continued inside*

The Pulse, published jointly, is one of many cooperative efforts between your two local fire departments.

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FIRE & RESCUE**

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Department Updates,  
Water Safety,  
Wildfire Readiness  
& More

# Proposition 1

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## What it is, and what it is not

A capital bond is a one-time borrowing authority, not a permanent tax increase. If approved, the bond would secure \$7.64 million to fund equipment and facility needs. It would be repaid through a temporary property tax over six years; when the bond is paid off, that tax ends.

## Why a bond

Poulsbo Fire Department does not receive any ongoing funding from Kitsap County or the city of Poulsbo. The department's fire and EMS levies provide the majority of funding for daily operations, including personnel and

emergency response. Annual increases in levy revenue are limited by state law. As the community grows and demand for service increases, levy revenues have flattened and are projected to decrease in the coming years.

By separating capital investments from operational funding, the bond is intended to preserve the department's ability to maintain current service levels while addressing immediate infrastructure and equipment needs.

This proposal follows a recommendation from the citizens' Strategic Advisory Board. Before placing this measure on the ballot, the board examined the budget, capital plan and long-term projections. The majority recommended a capital bond in 2026 to address these needs while

keeping fire and EMS levies focused on operations.

## Learn more

For more information, visit [poulsbofire.org/capitalbond](http://poulsbofire.org/capitalbond), email Fire Chief Jim Gillard at [jgillard@poulsbofire.org](mailto:jgillard@poulsbofire.org) or call the department at (360) 779-3997.

Scan to learn more about Poulsbo Fire's Proposition 1



# Separate Districts, Seamless Response

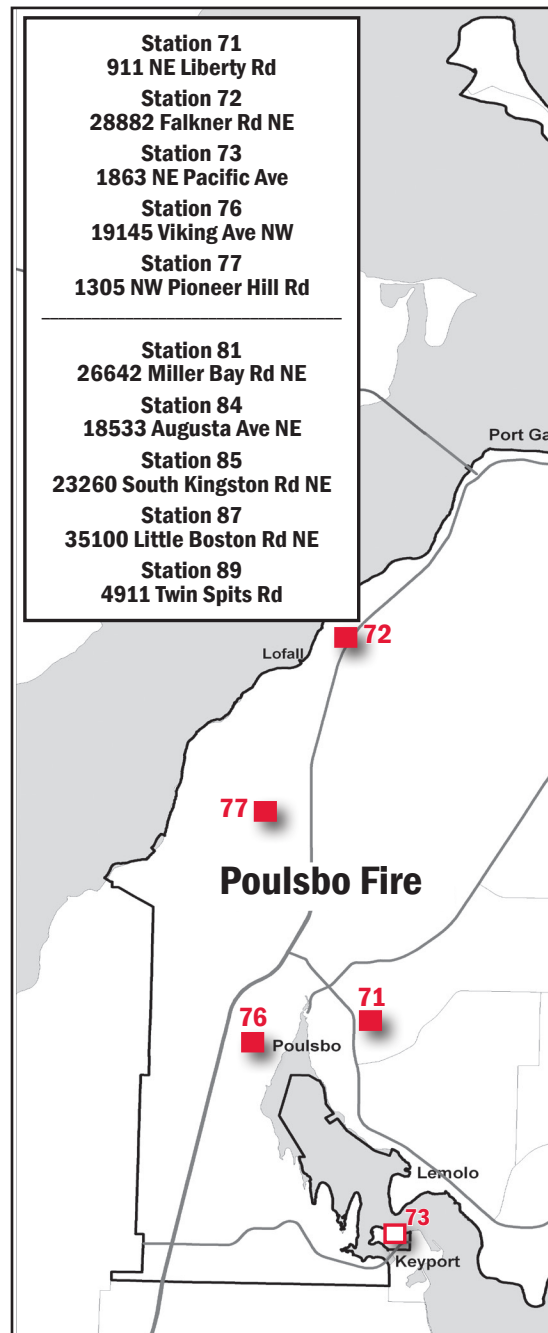
North Kitsap communities are served by two distinct and individually funded fire districts, Poulsbo Fire Department and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue. Poulsbo Fire Department covers the area in and around the city of Poulsbo, including from Keyport to Port Gamble. North Kitsap Fire & Rescue serves the unincorporated areas and communities to the north and east: Kingston, Suquamish, Indianola, Miller Bay and Hansville. The boundaries are not always obvious, especially near the edges of the service area.

When emergencies occur, district lines disappear. Both departments participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements with each other and neighboring agencies across the county. When a call requires more resources than one department can provide, or when the closest appropriate unit is from a neighboring agency, response crosses boundaries without hesitation. That seamless cooperation across Kitsap County has improved as technology, like GPS-based

dispatch, and interagency training and collaboration have grown over time.

The easiest way to find out which department serves a specific address is to enter it at Community Connect. Community Connect is a free, secure platform where users can share information about their home or business with first responders. Users can also obtain or renew their own burn permits through Community Connect. Visit the fire departments' websites or scan the QR code below to sign up.

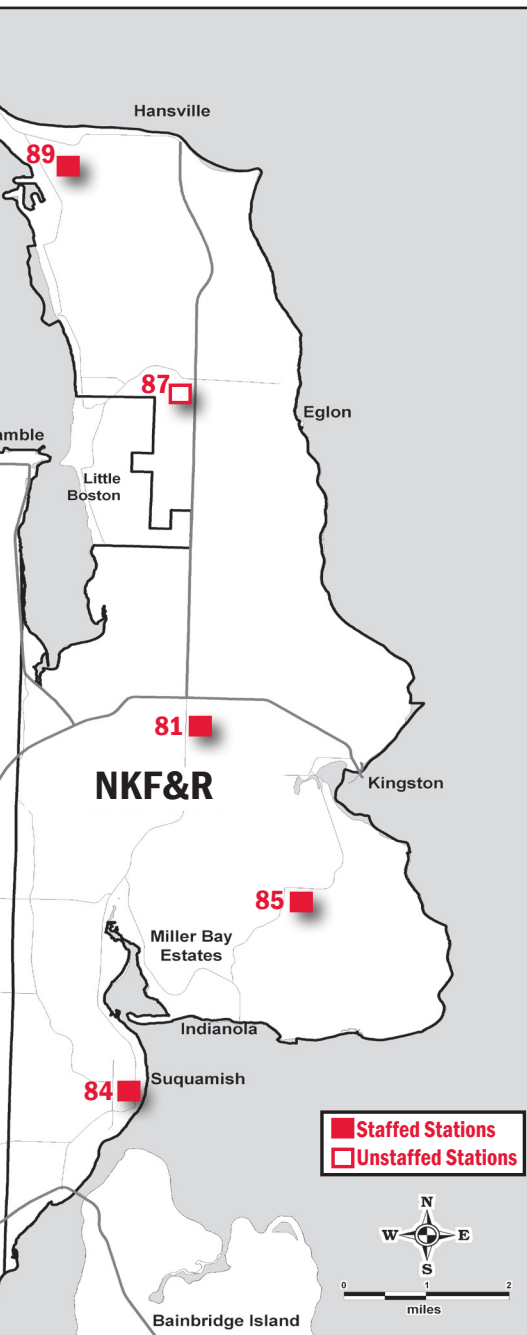
Scan to sign up for Community Connect



# Update from Your Fire Departments

## Quick Facts About NKF&R

**Service Area:** 46 square miles  
**Population Served:** 21,215 (2025 OFM estimate)  
**2026 Operating Budget:** \$13.9 million  
**2025 Total Calls:** 3,696  
**2025 Medical Calls:** 2,480 (67%)  
**Non-Response Employees:** 8  
**Response Employees:** 53  
**Volunteers:** 9  
**Fire Insurance Rating:** 4



**North Kitsap Fire & Rescue** placed a new fire engine into service last fall at Station 81, the district's busiest station, replacing an older unit and standardizing the fleet. A new water tender also joined the lineup. Carrying about 3,000 gallons, tenders are essential in rural areas where hydrants may be inaccessible.

This summer, three new hires are training at fire and EMT academies before answering their first calls at NKF&R. Two current department members have also been selected for the Medic One Paramedic Training Program this fall. Supported by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, their training expands the level of care NKF&R can provide on medical calls, which make up more than two-thirds of call volume.

NKF&R offers free child car seat checks the second Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at headquarters. The district also provides bike helmet and life jacket fittings, smoke alarm installations and blood pressure checks. Learn more at [nkfr.org](http://nkfr.org).

**Poulsbo Fire Department** opened Station 76 on Viking Avenue, its first new station in more than 25 years, immediately improving response coverage to west Poulsbo and the Scandia and Keyport corridor. By December 2025, response times had dropped by 43 seconds. Daily on-duty staffing increased from nine to 11 personnel, placing an additional response unit in around-the-clock

service. This past spring, Poulsbo Fire welcomed Ladder 71 into service to meet the needs of increased building heights now permitted in Poulsbo.

Poulsbo Fire's Community Assistance, Referral and Education Service (CARES) continues to demonstrate a measurable impact reducing unnecessary 911 calls and ER visits. In 2025, among those served, 911 call utilization decreased by 84.2% and emergency department visits decreased by 82.5%, reflecting the program's effectiveness in diverting demand from traditional emergency systems while improving continuity of care.

Poulsbo Fire fall community open house dates:

- Station 72: Sept. 19, 9-11 a.m.
- Station 77: Sept. 26, 9-11 a.m.
- Station 76: Oct. 3, 9-11 a.m.
- Station 71: Oct. 10, 9-11 a.m.
- Station 73: Oct. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.

## Quick Facts About Poulsbo Fire

**Service Area:** 54 square miles  
**Population Served:** 28,361 (2025 OFM estimate)  
**2026 Operating Budget:** \$16.4 million  
**2025 Total Calls:** 4,594  
**2025 Medical Calls:** 3,262 (71%)  
**Non-Response Employees:** 10  
**Response Employees:** 54  
**Volunteers:** 9  
**Fire Insurance Rating:** 4

# Stay Afloat This Summer

Puget Sound's waters are frigid, with temperatures around 48 to 52 degrees. On a warm summer day, it can be easy to forget that. Hypothermia can set in quickly, and cold water can impair even the strongest swimmer. Children are particularly vulnerable around water. Attentive adult supervision is essential along with a properly fitted life jacket.

Life jacket loaner kiosks are available at recreation sites across Kitsap County. To locate a kiosk near you, visit [parks.wa.gov/life-jacket-loaner-program](http://parks.wa.gov/life-jacket-loaner-program).



# Every Second Counts: Hands-Only CPR

When someone's heart stops, survival odds drop 7% to 10% for every minute without intervention. Bystander CPR can double or triple the chances of survival, but only if someone acts.

Hands-only CPR is simple: call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest (about 100 to 120 compressions per minute, or to the beat of the Bee Gees song, "Stayin' Alive"). Because more than 73% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home, the person who needs it is more likely to be a friend, family member or loved one rather than a stranger on the street.

Formal training isn't required to save a life, but it builds confidence for when it matters most.

Poulsbo Fire offers CPR and AED classes on the second Saturday of every month through Poulsbo Parks and Recreation. NKF&R offers periodic CPR training throughout the year. Check the departments' websites for more information. You can also find instructional resources and watch a quick how-to video at [heart.org/handsonlycpr](http://heart.org/handsonlycpr).

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**2 STEPS  
TO SAVE A LIFE**

**1. CALL 911**      **2. PUSH HARD & FAST**

## Is Your Home Wildfire Ready?

Although Kitsap County generally ranks low for wildfire risk compared to much of Washington and the country, low does not mean zero. Summers are getting longer and warmer, with the dry season extending further into fall. Washington state declared a statewide drought emergency for the fourth year in a row.

While the probability of wildfire remains low, nearly half of the buildings and homes in Kitsap County are surrounded by enough vegetation that fire could directly reach them if one occurred. Simple actions make a real difference: Clear combustible materials from within at least five feet of your home. Clean your gutters and remove accumulated debris from your roof. Make sure your address numbers are visible from the road. Sign up for emergency alerts and learn what each evacuation level means at [kitsapdem.com/kitsapalert](http://kitsapdem.com/kitsapalert).

Find more tips, how-tos and checklists to increase your home's wildfire resilience at [firewise.org](http://firewise.org). Kitsap County residents can also sign up for a free wildfire home assessment through the Washington Department of Natural Resources at [wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov](http://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov).

## Proposed Ban on Residential Yard Waste Burning

Poulsbo Fire and NKF&R want community members to know about a potential upcoming rule change that may impact outdoor burning. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) is proposing a rule to prohibit residential yard waste burning, including leaves, clippings and prunings. PSCAA is the regional authority that regulates air quality across King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

The proposed rule would affect residents outside Urban Growth Areas who currently burn yard waste with a permit; recreational and cooking fires would not be affected by this rule. PSCAA notes that about 99% of

residents across the four-county area have access to reasonable alternatives, including curbside collection, transfer station drop-off and composting. The proposed rule is intended to reduce fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which can harm heart and lung health, as well as reduce wildfire risk.

There will be a public comment period this fall. Residents are encouraged to share their input. The anticipated board decision is January 2027, and if adopted, the rule would take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

For updates, visit [pscleanair.gov/RAOB](http://pscleanair.gov/RAOB). For questions, email [RAOB@pscleanair.gov](mailto:RAOB@pscleanair.gov).

### FIRE COMMISSIONERS

| North Kitsap Fire & Rescue  | Poulsbo Fire Department  |
|---|--|
| Chelsea Tate, Chair ( <a href="mailto:tate@nkfr.org">tate@nkfr.org</a> )              | Jim Ingalls, Chair ( <a href="mailto:jingalls@poulsbofire.org">jingalls@poulsbofire.org</a> )  |
| Wilson Stewart, Vice-Chair ( <a href="mailto:stewart@nkfr.org">stewart@nkfr.org</a> ) | David Ellingson ( <a href="mailto:dellingson@poulsbofire.org">dellingson@poulsbofire.org</a> ) |
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**North Kitsap Burn Ban  
Information Line  
(360) 297-4888**

**Poulsbo Fire Burn Ban  
Information Line  
(360) 779-3997 (Option 1)**