



Flash Point

Fall 2008

The Mission of Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety is to provide quality, cost effective, emergency services for the preservation of life and property. These services shall be compatible with the needs of the community and at levels reasonably permitted by publicly approved funding.

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From the Fire Chief's Desk

By Fire Chief Timothy Lemon

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the City of Maple Valley and the Greater Maple Valley area residents for their ongoing support. I am aware of the difficult financial times many of us are facing in our homes and in our community. These same financial difficulties are also affecting the over-all operations of the Fire District.



As your Fire Chief, I have to insure the Fire District continues to have adequate funding to meet the increased cost of providing the emergency services to your families and throughout our community. In order to maintain the funding resources, we return to the voting public and ask for Fire Levy Lid Lifts every couple of years. That is not only the only avenue we have to ensure continued funding for your fire department, it is also the way we keep you connected to this important decision. You have likely heard me speak of the increased cost of running the Fire District and the limitations of the 1% increase without voter approval. Without a voter approved Fire Levy Lid lift which maintains the current funding levels, the Fire District will have to reduce services to stay within our available revenues.

The men and women of Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety are committed to providing the very best levels of service as quickly as possible when a 911 call is received and will continue to do so into the future. If the November levy fails again and the Fire District is required to cut back, our community will experience longer response times with less on-duty personnel to respond to those emergencies.

Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety covers 53 square miles with approximately 45,000 people living here. We responded to 2,834 emergencies last year, which required 4,696 responses by emergency apparatus. The Fire District provides emergency services out of six strategically located Fire Stations throughout the community. Three of these stations are staffed with career professional Firefighter/EMTs and the other three stations are staffed with volunteer Firefighter/EMTs when available in the evenings.

Due to the potential impacts to the daily operation of the Fire District our Board of Fire Commissioners have decided to run the Fire Levy Lift again in the November 4 general election to attempt to maintain the previous funding levels. If the Fire District does not receive approval for the Fire Levy Lid Lift in the general election, we will not be able to restore funding until 2010 pending a voter approval sometime in 2009.

Again, I thank you for your support and community partnership as we all work through these difficult financial times. I hope you will give this important funding issue careful consideration.

Firefighters extinguished several trailers that had caught fire in Maple Valley.



Your Fire Department Busy At Work YEAR-END REVIEW 2008

January 2008

- ▶ Blood Drive
- ▶ CPR/First Aid Class for Citizens
- ▶ Station Tours
- ▶ Job Shadows/Tahoma High School Students

February 2008

- ▶ CPR/First Aid Class for Citizens
- ▶ CPR Class for Citizens
- ▶ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

March 2008

- ▶ "Read Across America" for Dr. Seuss Birthday at Rock Creek Elementary School
- ▶ CPR 80 Students at Tahoma Junior High
- ▶ CPR Class for Tahoma Teachers
- ▶ Easter Egg Hunt/Maple Valley Community Center
- ▶ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits
- ▶ "Safe Sitter" Babysitting Class
- ▶ Seattle "Tower Climb" for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Fund Raiser/Off Duty)

April 2008

- ▶ Fishing Derby at Lake Wilderness Park
- ▶ CPR Class for Citizens
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

May 2008

- ▶ Vine Maple Place Auction (Fund Raiser/Off Duty)
- ▶ CPR/First Aid Class for Citizens
- ▶ Engine Visit Shadow Lake Elementary
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

June 2007

- ▶ Maple Valley Days
- ▶ Summer Safety Talk at Rock Creek Elementary For 3rd Grade Students
- ▶ "Relay For Life" Cancer Walk (Fund Raiser/Off Duty)
- ▶ Boeing Kids Day (Volunteers/Off Duty)
- ▶ CPR Class for Citizens
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

July 2008

- ▶ Safe Sitters Class
- ▶ Blood Drive (Donation)
- ▶ Maple Valley Community Center Block Party
- ▶ Station Tours/Summer School Visits
- ▶ July 4th at Lake Wilderness Park
- ▶ Kids Festival Lake Wilderness Park
- ▶ Birthday Party (Auction Winner)
- ▶ CPR for Local Business

August 2008

- ▶ National Night Out
- ▶ Fill The Boot (Fund Raiser/Off Duty)
- ▶ CPR/First Aid Class for Citizens
- ▶ CPR Class for Citizens
- ▶ Station Tours
- ▶ Engine Visit Camp Royal Arch Park
- ▶ CPR Class for Boy Scouts of America

September 2008

- ▶ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits
- ▶ Safety Fair Lake Wilderness Villa

Events Tentatively Scheduled For:

October 2008

- ▶ Halloween "Trick or Trucks" Community Center
- ▶ CPR/First Aid Class for Citizens
- ▶ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

November, 2008

- ▶ CPR/First Aid class for citizens
- ▶ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- ▶ Station tours/school visits

December 2007

- ▶ Lights at the Lodge
- ▶ Christmas Engine
- ▶ Friends of Friends at the Lodge
- ▶ CPR Class for Citizens
- ▶ Station Tours/School Visits

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 425-432-0200 OR BY E-MAIL AT CHIEF@MAPLEVALLEYFIRE.ORG.



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November 2th, 2008



Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries



Welcome back to school
from your
fire department!

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Commissioner
Mike Scott



Commissioner
Brian McGee



Commissioner
Jeff Granlund

By Commissioners Mike Scott, Jeff Granlund, and Brian McGee

The final results of the Fire District's Fire Levy Lid Lift in the August 19 Primary are that the proposition has failed by a slim 2%. The financial effects of the Fire Levy Lid Lift failing means the Fire District will not collect over one million dollars in operational revenue going into 2009.

Due to the significance of the revenue potential being decreased and the operational cut backs that would be necessary, the Board of Fire Commissioners has decided to place the Fire Levy Lid Lift in front of the voters in the General Election. If the voters decide to pass the levy and continue the original level of funding, the Fire District will be able to maintain its current levels of service while continuing to deliver and improve its emergency response capability to our growing community.

The Fire Levy Lid Lift is the primary revenue source that pays for the expenses of responding to emergency calls and the day-to-day operations of the Fire District. The Fire District is attempting to restore the lawful maximum rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2009 (current rate is \$1.39). The voters have restored the \$1.50 rate previously in 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006 with single-year lid lifts. New legislation enacted in 2006 allows the fire district to propose a multi-year lid lift to the voters. The multi-year lid lift will save the Fire District from having to come back to the voters every couple years to reauthorize funding and save the Fire District the cost of elections. The 2006 election cost to the Fire District was \$61,617.33. By passing a multi-year lid lift, we



9th Grade CPR

"Way To Go" Tahoma Junior High!

On April 28th approximately 80 Tahoma Junior High students learned Adult/Child CPR. The Instructors were Public Education Specialist Janine Johnson, Fire Inspector John Fernandez, Firefighter Marc Donnell and Tim Perciful from Mountain View Fire & Rescue.

Did you know that during a medical emergency, minutes and sometimes even seconds could make the difference between life and death? The sooner you begin emergency care, the greater the chance you have to save a life. Time is so crucial during some medical emergencies that the first medically trained person on the scene often determines the outcome. It isn't always the police or fire department that arrives first...IT'S YOU! Take the time to learn CPR.

accomplish the same goal of providing adequate funding for the district, but save thousands by not wasting precious taxpayer funds on even basic costs of holding an election.

This proposition meets the requirements originally enacted in Initiative 747, that any tax revenue increase greater than 1% over the previous year be approved by the voters. The operational costs of the Fire District have exceeded a fixed 1% annual increase, plus new construction. In order to restore our operational revenues, a simple majority vote in favor of the Lid Lift is necessary.

While we look to November to secure funding for 2009 and beyond, the Fire District is taking steps now to reduce expenses in the event the Fire Levy Lid Lift is not authorized. Some of the possible changes include: un-staffing one of two 24-hour career staffed aid cars and reassigning the personnel to our primary engine companies to meet our engine company staffing needs; Reducing the minimum on-duty career staff; reviewing the current cost of the Special Operations Team and whether to continue the team and/or reduce the level of its participation. Currently, the Special Operations Team is certified in High/Low Angle Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Surface Water Rescue and Ice Rescue. This team has been active with rescue on the Cedar River and Green River over this last year; terminating the two part-time Fire Inspectors; reviewing the Public Education classes we currently offer, which include: CPR, First Aid, CERT, and Baby Sitter Safety, etc... and the cost of conducting each class and the over-all return/benefit to the community. We may reduce the number of classes we offer, increase the student tuition on certain classes and for those classes without tuition, consider charging tuition; reviewing the cost associated with sending fire apparatus to participate in neighborhood public relation events and community events such as Maple Valley Days, National Night Out, etc.; reducing the hours of training that requires fire apparatus to be running and burning fuel; reducing the out-of-district training opportunities currently offered to career and volunteer personnel to only training required to maintain certifications.

While many of the voters voted "yes" in support of the Fire District and we thank you, we also understand that those who voted "no" are primarily concerned with knowing that the Fire District is being fiscally responsible and making the best use of all funds. Be assured, we are using every dollar carefully, but the Fire District, like all businesses, is faced with the same increasing cost of doing business. The fuel budget alone has doubled since 2005 with an increase of over 26% in just the last year. The financial reality is that the only way for the Fire District to address these rising costs is through continued funding by voter approval, and/or cutting services. Our business is a service delivery business with personnel's wages and benefits making up 90% of the budget—therefore decreasing expenses often results in personnel being laid off.

We at Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety take our mission statement seriously and are committed to being **cost effective** and living within revenue **levels reasonably permitted by publicly approved funding**.

The Mission of Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety

is to provide quality, **cost effective**, emergency services, for the preservation of life and property. These services shall be at **levels reasonably permitted by publicly approved funding**.

We hope you will all take another look at the Fire Levy Lid Lift and give this important community safety proposition careful consideration.

Firefighters practice their skills with extrication equipment



First Protectors

by Lawrence A. Rude, Deputy Fire Chief

Our community is made up of individuals—such as doctors, spiritual leaders, police, firefighters and our armed forces—whose focus is to protect all of us from harm that surrounds our everyday lives.

This article is not about the individuals that come to mind when you hear the word *hero* or *first responder*. This article is about the *first protectors*, the men and women serving you everyday ensuring the buildings and homes you live and work in are safe for you and your children.

Who are our first protectors? They are the men and women of Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety, Maple Valley's Community Development and Maple Valley Public Works Departments.

These folks are the people behind the scenes that most of you will never see or come in contact with.

Public Works Departments

- They improve and maintain a safer, more attractive and functional transportation system.
- They improve, protect and maintain the City's surface water resources.

Community Development

- The Department of Community Development is committed to promoting the health, welfare, safety and quality of life of all citizens through the fair and consistent application of building and land use regulations.

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety Fire Prevention Division

- They provide quality, cost effective, emergency services for the preservation of life and property.

Did you know that the buildings you live and work in and the roads you drive on underwent rigorous review by individuals whose emphasis was on your safety and quality of life?

These people are the Code officials, inspectors and plan reviewers who play a major role in keeping you safe. They are the First Protectors and are true heroes. These protectors ensure that all buildings including homes, businesses and places of public assembly are built to required building safety codes. These codes (International Building, Fire, Mechanical etc. Codes) address structural stability, fire safety, exits, sanitation, electricity, energy efficiency and much more. These First Protectors are responsible for public health, safety and welfare through effective code enforcement.

After a property owner submits an application for permission to construct or remodel a building, plan reviewers check the construction plans for code compliance. The code official grants a permit so construction can begin. Inspectors visit the site during different construction phases to determine the structure is built safely and according to standards. If something does not comply, the code official issues orders to have the builder correct the problem. When the project is complete, the inspector issues a certificate of occupancy.

Who and What is an Inspector?

Inspectors usually specialize in a specific area of construction such as buildings, public works, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, housing or fire prevention. Each inspector is a specialist in their field. They each apply their knowledge of construction to ensure compliance with local building and safety standards. During the entire construction process these folks are checking materials used meet the necessary standards and conform to the specifications.

• **BUILDING INSPECTORS:** review project drawings and specifications. They visit the building site to check drainage, elevations and placement of the building on the plot. They examine floor framing, wall framing, roofs, ceilings, chimneys and all other parts of the building structure. An inspection is required at the completion of each building phase before work can progress. When the building is completed, the building inspector performs a comprehensive inspection and then issues a certificate of occupancy.

• **PUBLIC WORKS INSPECTORS:** are responsible for checking government projects such as highways, water and sewer systems, streets, bridges and dams. They inspect digging and fill preparations and placement of forms for concrete. They observe concrete mixing and pouring, asphalt paving and grading operations and keep records of all performed work and materials used.

see "First Protectors" on page 8



Fire Operations

by Brad Doerflinger, Deputy Chief

Under the direction of the Deputy Chief of Operations, the Operations Division includes both suppression personnel and training personnel. The suppression division employs three (3) Battalion Chiefs, nine (9) Lieutenants, thirty-six (36) career firefighters and thirty (36) volunteer resident firefighters. The training division employs one Training Chief and one Captain.



Career suppression personnel comprise three shifts of firefighters, operating out of three stations while staffing a minimum of three engine companies and two aid units. Resident firefighters supplement career engine companies as well as providing the staffing of outlying stations. Resident firefighters work 12 hour shifts, while career firefighters work 24-hour shifts; each shift is supervised by a Battalion Chief who is responsible for the emergency and administrative activities of all members assigned to that shift.

The Operations Division's primary function is to provide emergency response to including the following primary functions:

- Emergency Medical Services including BLS transport services
- Fire Suppression (vehicle, residential and commercial)
- Wildland Fire Fighting
- Hazardous Material Response (operational level)
- Technical Rescue/Special Operations (high/low angle, swift water, surface water, ice rescue).

WORKLOAD BY TYPE, 2007	
INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER
STRUCTURE FIRE	.39
OTHER FIRE	.112
OVERPRESSURE/RUPTURE	.2
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	.1714
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	.173
RESCUE	.2
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	.65
SERVICE CALL	.143
GOOD INTENT	.324
FALSE CALL	.257
SPECIAL/OTHER	.11
TOTAL INCIDENTS	.2842

The ultimate goal of any emergency service delivery system is to provide sufficient resources (personnel, apparatus and equipment) to the scene of an emergency in time to take effective action to minimize the impacts of the emergency. This need applies to fires, medical emergencies and any other emergency situation to which the fire department responds.

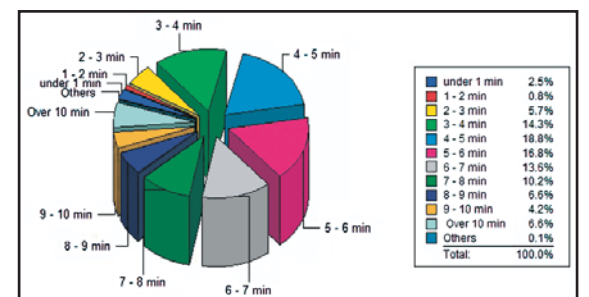
People, Tools and Time

Response time to an incident matters a great deal in the achievement of an effective outcome to an emergency event. Response time, however, isn't the only factor. Delivering sufficient numbers of properly trained and appropriately equipped personnel within the critical time period completes the equation.

For medical emergencies, this will vary based on the nature of the emergency. Most medical emergencies are not as time critical as structure fires. However, for serious trauma, cardiac arrest, or conditions that may lead to cardiac arrest, response time can be very critical.

Response Times 2007

Equally critical is delivering a sufficient complement of personnel to the scene to perform all concurrent tasks required to deliver quality emergency care. For a cardiac arrest, this



see "Fire Operations" on page 7

There Is A New Marshal In Town!

Fire Marshal Scott Webster

Scott Webster resides in Normandy Park where he and his wife Sherri are raising their two children. Scott has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Montana State University. He moved to Seattle to work at the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau where he conducted loss control inspections and fire department evaluations for fire insurance rates. It was through this job that Scott realized that he wanted to work in the fire service and he started his career as a fire inspector for the City of SeaTac prior to moving to Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety. Scott is certified through the International Code Council as Fire Inspector II and Fire Plans Examiner. He is a member of the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals and is currently serving as president of the King County Fire Prevention Association.



Fire Marshal Scott Webster

We Can't Help You if We Can't Get to You

by Fire Marshal Scott Webster

Firefighters work in a variety of different environments and many of them are hazardous and dangerous. One of the less hazardous locations firefighters work is your neighborhood streets. Whether it be participating in a community event, checking fire hydrants, responding to traffic accidents, responding to a fire or medical emergency.

The Fire Code requires that roads be at least 20 feet wide. This is to allow clear and continuous access to your home during an emergency. In some instances our fire engines need to get past one another. The need to pass would occur when engines are parked and connected to a hydrant, laying hose lines or performing aerial ladder operations. This is also to allow clear space around the fire engine in order for the firefighters to retrieve equipment such as ladders, hose and/or medical supplies. The fire codes are in place to keep the public and emergency responders safe. We ask for your assistance in keeping an adequate and safe work environment for us.



Most neighborhood streets in Maple Valley are 24 feet wide and designated fire lanes for commercial businesses are 20 feet wide. However, when cars are parked in fire lanes or along neighborhood streets the space for us to drive through, park and work safely is reduced. Fire engines are 9 feet wide but with compartment doors open and ladder racks down they become 14 feet wide. As you can see from the photo simply driving a fire engine through a neighborhood, with cars parked on both sides of the street, significantly reduces the space. It also makes it challenging and increases the time for us to respond to emergencies. For your safety and the safety of the firefighters we ask that you think twice before parking.

For those of you that live in more rural areas we ask that you keep your driveway in such a condition so that our fire equipment is able to access it all year long. A gravel, asphalt or concrete surface is necessary.

Fire engines weigh nearly 50,000 pounds and may easily get stuck without a solid driving surface. Also, please keep landscaping and natural vegetation along your driveway trimmed back the full width of the driveway and 13 feet 6 inches vertically.

The men and women in the fire service are dedicated to saving life and property. They will do what is necessary to accomplish this. By not having the adequate work space and sufficient roadways to safely and effectively do our job to assist you will inevitably result in injuries or death.

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH...

"PREVENT HOME FIRES"

PLEASE CALL OUR FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE TO SCHEDULE A KITCHEN SAFETY TALK FOR YOUR CLASS K-9.

425 432-0200

OCTOBER 20TH ~ Make a home escape plan and practice it. Have two ways out of every room. Have a meeting place outside in a safe area. It is important to "Get Out and Stay Out". Make the 911 phone call from a neighbor's house.

OCTOBER 21ST ~ Test your batteries in your smoke detectors. Press and hold the button on the face of the smoke detector. If it does not sound replace the battery.

OCTOBER 22ND ~ Clean your smoke detectors by using the attachment to your vacuum cleaner. If it has dust particles inside it may not be a working detector.

OCTOBER 23RD ~ Talk to your kids about matches/lighters. They are not toys, they are tools. Hide all matches/lighters away from children. Locked-up is the best way to insure children will not have access to them.

OCTOBER 24TH ~ Make sure electrical cords are in good condition. Do not run electrical cords under carpet or throw rugs.

OCTOBER 25TH ~ Make sure all gas cans, cleaners and lawn mowers are kept in a shed outside of the garage. If they must be kept in the garage, keep them as far away as possible from the furnace.

OCTOBER 26TH ~ Clean your dryer vent by using the attachment on your vacuum cleaner. Reach down the tube as far as you can with the attachment to get any or all lint that has been trapped.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In July, Firefighter Gordy Plett coordinated a Blood Drive that was held at Station 81. Because the blood is separated into platelets, red cells and plasma, the blood drive will give over fifty seven patients another chance at life. Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety will continue to play a vital role in maintaining our community blood program. Thank you Firefighter Plett for a job well done!



GIVE BLOOD

Firefighter Combat Challenge

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety "C" shift held its own Combat Challenge. Each firefighter donned full bunker gear including breathing apparatus and performed the physical demands of real-life



firefighting in a linked series of five tasks: climbing the three-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life-sized, 175-pound "victim" as they race against time and their opponents.

Live Fire Training

In order to survive, firefighters must be able to think critically and clearly and solve problems quickly, under extreme stress. This can be especially difficult in an actual fire, so training instructors conduct live fire training drills: they purposely set buildings on fire to give students opportunities to develop these skills. The overall goal of this behavioral training is to instill good habits in students through repeated exposure. Live fire training is conducted in burn buildings, which are structures, built or acquired, to be intentionally burned for firefighter training.

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety would like to thank Mama Passarelli for providing lunch for the two day practice burn and a big thank you to the CERT Members that participated.



CERT Training

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



On July 9th 2008 Paul Bokor became Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety's first CERT Team Captain. In order to become a Team Captain a CERT Member must complete the incident command system 100, 700 and 800 from FEMA, attend one drill with the Maple Valley Firefighters and have a 3 day disaster kit in the home for every occupant. Congratulations Paul!

Maple Valley has approximately 136 CERT Members ready to assist during a disaster. For more information contact Public Education Specialist Janine Johnson at (425)433-2116.



Firefighters Volunteering When Off Duty

Union Adopts Local Family to Help Raise Awareness About Muscular Dystrophy

by Maple Valley Firefighters

Lindsey is a young girl who lives in Maple Valley and has a form of Muscular Dystrophy. It's called spinal muscular atrophy. Our firefighters have formed a loose "adoption" with Lindsey and her family, to help promote Muscular Dystrophy awareness in our department and our community.



My name is Lindsey Renee Muszkiewicz and I was born January 23rd, 1998. I love riding horses, swimming, chasing butterflies and ladybugs, playing with my animal toys, singing, reading and drawing just like many other little girls my age. What is so special about me is that I was born with a disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy type II/III (SMA). My web site www.curesma4lindsey.com was developed to raise awareness about SMA and to show how incredible life can be seen through my courageous eyes!

By Lindsey Muszkiewicz

A very special thank you is sent out to Maple Valley Firefighter Cary McCormick, who arranged a first for Lindsey and our family! Lindsey got to throw out the FIRST PITCH at the Tacoma Rainiers baseball game. Many other firefighters were there that night and cheered her on. Cary even surprised Lindsey with her very own Firefighter uniform and personalized fire helmet, thus making her an honorary member of the fire department.

Lindsey was so nervous and excited leading up to her big day. She zoomed out to the pitching mound and threw it out perfectly. We were all so proud of her. Brandon, Lindsey's brother, also got to announce the beginning of the game screaming into the microphone, "PLAY BALL!" He got a few players to sign his baseball right by the dugout. Our seats were perfect, right behind home plate and Lindsey watched every moment of the game cheering and booing. She wore her uniform through the entire game with pride and asked if she could wear it the first day of school. The Firefighters surprised Lindsey again at the end of the game by getting the entire baseball team to autograph her prized ball. It was a fun night and one we will always remember. Thank you Cary and the rest of the Maple Valley Fire crew! We are so blessed to have you all as a part of our lives.

By Lisa (Mom) Muszkiewicz



Getting ready to throw out the first pitch



Defeating Cancer One Step at a Time

At 788 feet of vertical elevation, the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle stands as the second tallest building west of the Mississippi. It takes 69 flights of stairs and 1,311 steps to reach the highly acclaimed observation deck overlooking the city. On Sunday March 2nd, firefighters raced up the stairs in full gear and SCBA's to help raise funds and awareness for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety participants were:

Firefighter Steve Galassi
Volunteer Firefighter Marc Donnell
Volunteer Firefighter Lucas Binkowski
Volunteer Firefighter Sonny Woo
Firefighter Blake Cleveland
Firefighter Jeff Hammock
Firefighter Adam Downs
Firefighter Philip Knowles
Firefighter Ryan Carpenter



Volunteering To Help Find a Cure

Relay For Life Cancer Walk 2008
The Fire Walkers

This event was held at Tahoma Junior High on June 27th and June 28th. Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety members walked for 20 hours with one member on the track at all times. With approximately 21 teams from the Maple Valley area, they were able to raise approximately \$60,000 dollars for the American Cancer Society.

This event hit home for the fire department this year. Several Firefighters donned their gear and dedicated several laps in honor of one of their own battling cancer.

Special thanks to Public Educator Janine Johnson for organizing this event.

Team Fire Walkers included: Team Captain Janine Johnson, Team Captain Cathy Lemon, Fire Chief Tim Lemon, Deputy Chief Larry Rude, Volunteer Firefighter Nick Armendariz, Volunteer Firefighter James Cromwell, CERT Member Michelle Lee, CERT Member Stacy Paterson, Bruce Backer, Christine Renwick, Firefighter Pete Askevold, Pam Wade, Volunteer Firefighter A.J. Fandrich, Lieutenant Terry Brown, Firefighter Ken Whitmore, Firefighter Jon Graziani, Firefighter Michael Johnson, Firefighter Cary McCormick and Lieutenant Greg Lewis.

Family Members that walked: Scott Renwick, James Renwick, Anne Perez Cromwell, Isabella Cromwell, Alexis Cromwell, Laura Rude, Kathleen Backer, Nathaniel Askevold and Madeline Askevold.



Fill The Boot

Last year Maple Valley Firefighters raised over \$11,000 dollars in a single day by filling their boots. This is the most important non-profit fundraiser for the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF). Last year the IAFF presented a 25 million dollar check comprised entirely from "Fill The Boot" donations. Partnering with Muscular Dystrophy (MDA) since 1954, the IAFF has raised more than \$300 million dollars in the battle to conquer muscular dystrophy. We would like to thank the citizens of Maple Valley for their generous donations over the years.



Lindsey with firefighters Blake Cleveland and Jeff Hammock

Fire Operations ... cont'd from page 3

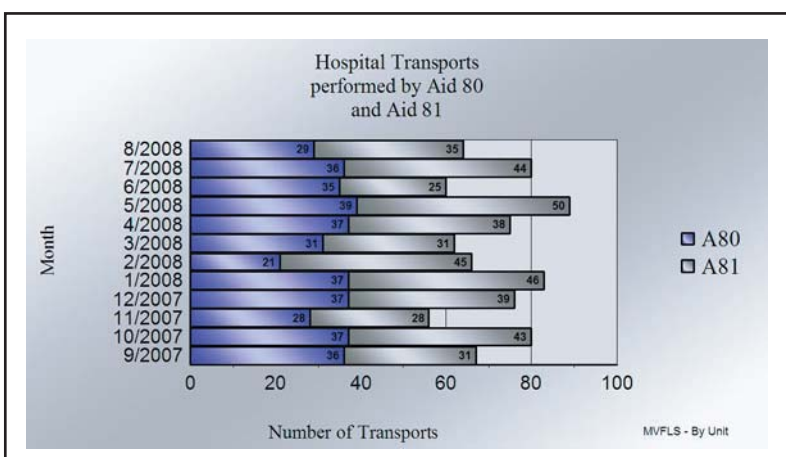
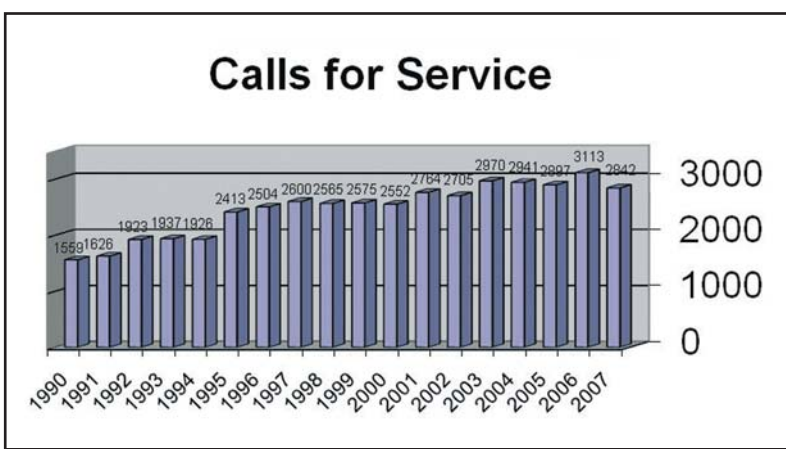
can be up to six personnel: two to perform CPR, two to set up and operate advanced medical equipment, one to record the actions taken by emergency care workers, and one to direct and provide advanced patient care. Thus, for a medical emergency the real test of performance is the time it takes to provide the personnel and equipment needed to deal effectively with the patient's condition, not necessarily the time it takes for the first person to arrive.

Fire emergencies are even more resource critical. The true test of performance is the time it takes to deliver sufficient personnel to initiate rescue operations and/or the application of water on the fire. Industry standards and worker safety regulations require that at least four personnel must be on scene to conduct interior firefighting operations. Effective operations at the scene of fire emergencies also depend on the arrival of sufficiently trained and equipped personnel to perform all of the duties and tasks required to control a fire event. Tasks that must be performed can be broken down into two key components: life safety and fire flow. Life safety tasks are based on the number of building occupants, their location, status, and ability to take self-preservation action. Life safety tasks involve the search, rescue, and evacuation of victims. The fire flow component involves delivering sufficient quantities of water to extinguish the fire and creating an environment within the building that allows entry by firefighters.

The number and types of tasks needing simultaneous action will dictate the minimum number of firefighters required to combat different types of fires. In the absence of adequate personnel to perform concurrent actions, the command officer must prioritize the tasks, completing some in chronological order rather than at the same time, reducing overall fire emergency effectiveness.

Critical tasks are those activities that must be conducted in a timely manner by firefighters at emergency incidents in order to control the situation, stop loss, and to perform necessary tasks required for a medical emergency.

MINIMUM CRITICAL TASKING, RESIDENTIAL FIRE	
TASK	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
COMMAND/SAFETY	2
PUMP OPERATIONS	1
ATTACK LINE	2
SEARCH AND RESCUE	2
VENTILATION	2
RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)	2
OTHER (HYDRANT AND BACK UP LINE)	2
TOTAL	13



NEW FIREFIGHTERS

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety Fills Vacant Position

Help Us Welcome Aboard Career Firefighter Travis Sapp



Travis grew up in Kent, Washington and graduated high school at Kentwood. He attended the firefighters course at Bates Technical College and became a Volunteer Resident Firefighter in 2004 with Maple Valley. Travis hobbies include wakeboarding, dirt bike riding and snowboarding.

New Volunteer Resident Firefighters

The following Volunteer Resident Firefighters have completed their Volunteer Recruit Class and graduated on June 29, 2008. Help me welcome these individuals to our team and organization.



Clockwise from top left:
 Jason D. Staggers
 Evin Nishimura
 Roberto Jaramill
 Monte Wolfskill, Joel Dhanens
 Eric Swartz Jr,
 Jordan Doerflinger, Casey Proud,
 Steve Opsahl, Steve Imhoff

Nation Night Out at Lake Wilderness Park



Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety Chaplaincy Program

By Pat Ellis



One of the questions often asked of me as a Chaplain is; "How do I help my neighbor or someone I know deal with grief?" We know that bad things happen to people and sometimes it is people we know. Maybe your neighbor's husband has a heart attack or your close friend loses their baby to SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. What do you say? How do you make yourself available to them and yet still give them their space?

First of all, it helps to have a little understanding about grief. Grief comes in many different ways and it doesn't always surround losing someone to death. Anytime you suffer a loss, a loss of friendship or relationship, the loss of work, the loss of some aspect of life that is very important to you. In all of these things you will experience grief in some form. We know that grief is experienced in stages that come like waves crashing on to the beach. We also know that these stages are not always in order and that many times these stages overlap each other.

There are many, many factors that influence the way we experience grief and how intense that grief experience is. Some of those factors include how close we were to what was lost. How it was lost, was it a traumatic and unexpected loss or was it a gradual loss. Your prior emotional state and past experiences also play into this. No matter the how, when, what, or where, grief is a real emotion that has to be handled properly or the lasting effects of it can be devastating.

Grief changes the course of your life. Whenever we go through an experience that involves grief we are changed. Life is changed and we have to learn a new path without whatever it was that was lost. Let's use the example of a wife losing her husband because of a death. Many times she will find herself starting to do something that involved her husband, such as getting his coffee in the morning or fixing breakfast. Suddenly she realizes what she is doing and a wave of grief will wash over her. She has to learn a new path in life that doesn't include her husband. That does not mean she forgets him for he will forever be a part of who she is, but her path in life will be changed.

The second thing that is very important is knowing what to say and when to say it. No one ever sets out to say something hurtful but often times, when we don't know what to say we end up saying something hurtful. Well meaning people say the dumbest things. After losing a child the worst thing you can hear is "At least you still have your other children." You chuckle but you have no idea how many times I have heard that very statement. Or how about this one, "I know how you feel..." Sounds innocent, well, I was at a home one night after a death helping the family and a neighbor came over and told the wife whose husband had just died after having a heart attack, "I know how you feel, my dog died just last week." No matter how similar the situation is, there is no way you can know how they feel because you are not them. You can understand how they might feel, but you don't know how they actually feel.

So, what do you say? Sometimes the best thing to say is absolutely nothing at all. Yep, don't say a word, just be there. Your presence means more than any words you could utter. Sometimes the only thing to say is "I am sorry." This is not an apology for something that you have done; it is simply an acknowledgement of a person's grief. "I am so sorry for what has happened."

No matter what, grief does not have to be carried alone. We need each other. Often times I will be at an incident with the fire department where there has been a death and people will express their condolences and say, "If you need anything please call." Do they ever receive that phone call? Most likely not. For the most part we don't like to inconvenience anyone or be a burden and some of us even have a hard time asking for help. If someone I know is dealing with grief I do my best to make myself available to more than just a "please call me". I will stop by and ask, "Can I help with anything today." Or "I just finished mowing my lawn and I thought I would come over and mow yours, do you mind if I mow your lawn for you?" Be balanced in your approach. Give them room and yet look for any needs they might have.

After a time of loss, especially after a death, there seems to be a lot that has to happen in the first week or so, funeral arrangements, family coming into town, paper work and all types of things. Two weeks later, everyone has gone home and life continues for them as if nothing has

First Protectors...cont'd from page 3

• **ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS:** check the quality of materials, installation work and safeguards for electrical systems. They make sure electrical systems meet applicable city, state and national codes and standards. Electrical inspectors inspect new wiring and fixtures in businesses, public buildings and homes.

• **MECHANICAL INSPECTORS:** focus on heating, ventilating and air-conditioning concerns. They inspect mechanical appliances and equipment such as air distribution systems, kitchen exhaust equipment, boilers, water heaters, hydronic piping, gas piping systems, flammable and combustible liquid storage and piping systems, fireplaces, chimneys, vents and refrigeration systems. Mechanical inspectors also check air quality and energy conservation measures.

• **PLUMBING INSPECTORS:** check for proper design and installation of plumbing systems, including sanitary and storm drainage systems, sanitary facilities, water supplies and storm water and sewage disposal in buildings.

• **FIRE INSPECTORS:** examine nonresidential buildings annually to ensure that appropriate fire safety practices are being followed. Fire inspections in our community are performed by Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety, your firefighters and Fire Prevention Bureau.

• **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OR HOUSING INSPECTORS:** inspect existing buildings for health or safety violations and the condition of the exterior property.

Due to the effort of these First Protectors the citizens of our fire district and city enjoy specific reduced insurance rates as specified in our ISO rating set by Washington Survey and Rating Bureau.

An essential part of Washington Survey and Rating Bureau's process of calculating fire insurance rates is determining the public protection classification for a given city or fire district.

Communities are assigned a class rating between one and ten with ten indicating no creditable fire protection. The city of Maple Valley and Fire District 43 take pleasure in a class rating of four and five.

Most of us may never meet the people behind the scenes that look out for our safety each and every day. These people are your First Protectors, they truly make a difference.



Inspecting new residential construction

happened. But the person who has experienced the loss, life is different and when all the activity has stopped and everyone has gone home grief becomes like the darkest night in a person's soul. You are their ray of sunshine. Phone calls, personal visits, cards, remembering important dates, like anniversaries and birthdays. All of these things are important to do. Never be afraid to say the person's name and never be afraid to talk about them for fear that saying their name will bring up bad feelings. On the contrary, if you don't talk about them people will feel like you have forgotten and feel even worse. Hearing the name of a loved one lost is like a healing balm, it is comfort in the form of words. Knowing you have not forgotten will mean the world.

When you are helping a friend deal with grief, there is nothing better than just being there for them. You don't have to say something magical because you will never take the pain away. Cry with them and laugh with them. Help them remember with honor the times they spent with their loved one. Remember, not everyone deals with grief the same way, don't argue with their emotions and allow them to experience their grief in their own way.

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PRODUCTION: ROTARY OFFSET PRESS ~ KENT, WA