

Key Peninsula FIRE NEWS

Winter 2011



Message from the Chief



I want to use this edition of our newsletter to update you about our staffing issues. We currently operate

with a minimum of four fire fighter/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) per shift. This means that we can respond to medical calls, but we do not have enough career personnel on duty to fight a fire.

Instead, we rely on volunteers and mutual aid from neighboring fire districts. Mutual aid can add 20 minutes or longer to our response times, and enough volunteers aren't always available when we need them because of other commitments.

As a result we have the fifth highest property dollar loss due to fire in Pierce County. In addition, due to staffing issues, the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau just

downgraded our insurance classification, which means some homeowners are starting to see an increase in their home insurance rates.

A solution means hiring more 24-hour emergency response personnel. Your fire department, Board of Fire Commissions, and Citizen Advisory Panel are considering the following options at the moment:

Option 1 – Hire eight additional fire fighter/EMTs. This would staff two fire stations with two medic units plus two additional personnel to respond to fires if one medic unit is on a call. It's less than I would recommend, but we would try to supplement shifts with volunteers if they are available. This option would cost taxpayers \$800,000, or approximately 41-cents per \$1,000 based on 2012 assessed valuations. This staffing level would reduce our average response times of 14.19 minutes for medical calls by two minutes.

Option 2 – Hire 15 fighter/EMTs. This would provide two medic units, plus a three-person engine company to fight fires and allowing us to staff a third station full-time. Using volunteers, we could have the ability to staff another two stations part-time. The cost for this would be \$1.5 million, or approximately 77-cents per \$1,000 based on 2012 assessed valuations. This service level would reduce our fire and medic response times by four minutes. It would also improve our insurance classification.

I would appreciate hearing what you think by email tlique@piercefire.org, or phone (253) 884-2222. Your input is critical to this process, so let's hear what you think!

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year,

TOM LIQUE
Fire Chief

Wear the CAP!

Key Peninsula Fire Department created the Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) several years ago to hear a broad spectrum of opinions from the community. The CAP serves as an advisory body to the Board of Fire Commissioners and meets periodically when an issue of

importance arises. Currently the CAP is working on long-range emergency planning issues, including staffing and service levels for the community.

Meetings are approximately once a month. If you would like to serve on the CAP, please send a letter

expressing your interest and qualifications to:

Chairperson, Board of Fire Commissioners
Key Peninsula Fire Department
8911 Key Peninsula Highway KPN
Lakebay, WA 98349



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 Lakebay, WA 98349
 (253) 884-2222 www.keypeninsulafire.org

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Calendar of Events

Please call us at (253) 884-2222 to sign up for classes.

- FRIDAYS** Skate Night **6-9 pm** (Key Pen Civic Center)
- WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS** Senior Lunch **noon** (KP Senior Center)
- Dec 3** Santa Breakfast **9-11 am** (Key Center Fire Station)
- Dec 4** Christmas tree lighting **4 pm** (Key Center Corral)
- Dec 6** Keyfest planning **6 pm** (Roadhouse) new members welcome
- Dec 13** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Dec 14** Key Peninsula Community Council **7 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Dec 27** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 7** CPR/First Aid Training **8 am-4 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 10** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 11** Key Peninsula Community Council **7 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 17** Fire Fighters Association Meeting **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 24** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Jan 28** Crab Feed **4-7 pm** (Key Pen Civic Center)
- Feb 4** Health Care Provider CPR **8 am-4 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Feb 8** Key Peninsula Community Council **7 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Feb 11-12** Safe Sitter Class **8 am-4 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Feb 14** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Feb 21** Fire Fighters Association Meeting **6 pm** (Key Center FS)
- Feb 28** Board of Fire Commissioners **6 pm** (Key Center FS)

Santa is coming to town

The Key Peninsula Fire Department kicks off its season of Santa Runs on December 3rd. This year's festivities include a tree lighting ceremony and a pancake breakfast at Key Center in partnership with Key Pen Parks.

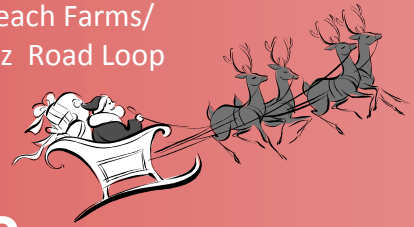
Santa's breakfast will be on December 3rd from 9-11 am at the Key Center Fire Station. Pre-registration is \$4 per person and \$6 at the door, which includes breakfast and a photo with Santa.

On December 4th there will be a tree lighting ceremony at Key Center beginning at 4pm. Following the tree lighting, Santa and his fire engine sleigh will begin visiting the following neighborhoods.

SANTA'S SLEIGH SCHEDULE

- December 4** Lake Minterwood (after tree lighting ceremony)
- December 5** Lake of the Woods/Bel Ridge
- December 9** Horseshoe Lake Estates/Wind and Tides/
Green Tree/Emerald Shores/Del Mar
- December 10** Home/Jackson Lake/Taylor Bay
- December 14** Horseshoe Lake Estates/Creviston Heights

- December 16** Skate Night and the Vaughn Community
- December 17** Palmer Lake/Whiteman
- December 18** Lake Holiday
- December 19** Joemma Beach Farms/
Hoff-Lorenz Road Loop

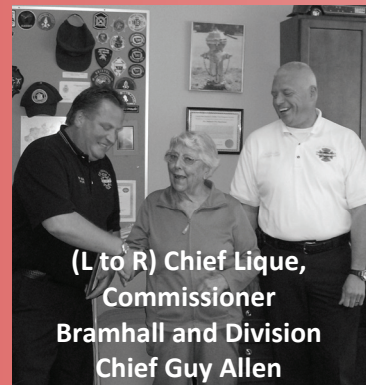


New web site

We're working harder to communicate better! Check out our new web site at www.keypeninsulafire.org.

Silver anniversaries

Everyone at the Key Peninsula Fire Department would like to congratulate Fire Chief Tom Lique, Battalion Chief Paul Bosch and Battalion Chief Chuck West for 25 years of service. Our community is a safer and better place with all of you in it. Thank you for your service!



(L to R) Chief Lique,
 Commissioner
 Bramhall and Division
 Chief Guy Allen