

# ThePulse

Summer 2013

**Inside:**  
**More about your**  
**fire district and**  
**important**  
**information to help**  
**keep you and your**  
**family safe**



Poulsbo Fire Department and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue are partners in providing the north end of Kitsap County with emergency response and related services, improving efficiency by sharing resources whenever possible. This newsletter is just one example of the many cooperative efforts between the agencies.



The districts also share resources in training, public information, apparatus and facilities maintenance, fire and injury prevention, information technology, administration and more.

Most importantly, the two departments provide seamless response to fire, medical and other emergencies.

North Kitsap Fire & Rescue serves 46 square miles and 18,410 people in the northeast portion of the county, and the communities of Hansville, Kingston, Miller Bay Estates, Indianola and Suquamish. Poulsbo Fire Department serves 54 square miles and 23,937 people in the northwest portion of the county, and the communities of Port Gamble, Lofall, Poulsbo, Lemolo and Keyport.



Both emergency and non-emergency services – such as free blood pressure checks, outdoor burning permits

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**POULSBO**  
**FIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT**

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

**NORTH KITSAP**  
**FIRE & RESCUE**

26642 Miller Bay Rd NE Kingston, WA 98346 (360)297-3619  
[www.nkfr.org](http://www.nkfr.org) @nkfrandr facebook/nkfire

# Working to Maintain Levels of

Continued from Page 1

and more – are provided from seven staffed fire stations pictured on the map below. All of the districts' professional firefighters are also certified as emergency medical

**Two-thirds of all calls are for medical incidents**

technicians (EMTs). While most volunteers also hold both qualifications, some specialize as EMTs or serve in a wide range of support functions.

The majority of responses in

both Poulsbo Fire Department and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue are for emergency medical incidents. Of a combined 5,937 calls in 2012, more than two-thirds (69%) were medical. Each district responded to about 20 working structure fires in 2012. As fire codes and prevention education reduce the total number of fire incidents, training for these high-risk events is even more important. Firefighters often

participate in drills to keep their skills sharp.

Fire districts receive no on-going funding from federal, state or county governments. As independent agencies governed by locally-elected fire commissioners, the

majority of the districts' funding

comes from local property taxes. User fees for ambulance transports and contracts-for-service are examples of fire districts' very limited range of non-tax revenue sources.

Under state law, fire districts are authorized to collect property taxes of up to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. With voter approval, agencies can levy up to \$0.50 per

\$1,000 of assessed valuation in additional property taxes to provide emergency medical response. The voters of both districts have resoundingly reauthorized these six-year levies time and time again. Still, the amount collected from either

levy cannot exceed 101% of the amount collected on existing properties in the previous year.

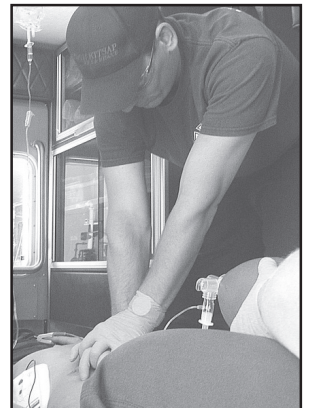
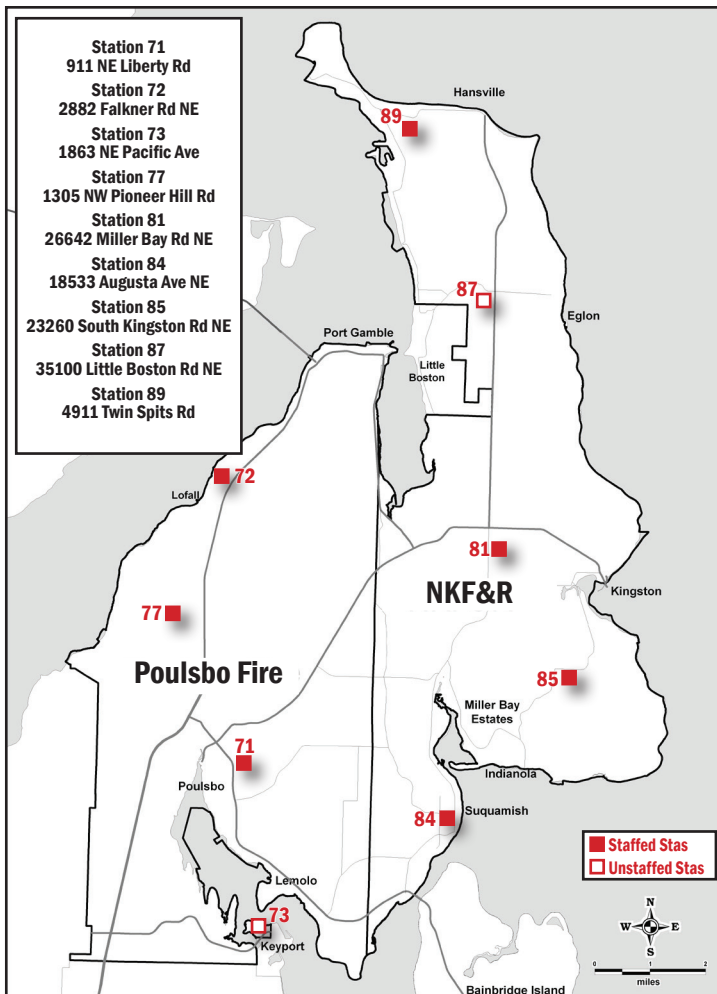
Under normal economic conditions, the total assessed valuation of the districts rises annually. Levy rates are adjusted downward

**Fire districts receive no on-going county, state or federal funding and rely on local property taxes**

to keep collections on existing properties within the 101% limitation. In the first year that a newly-built property comes on to the tax rolls, it is referred to as "new construction." Tax revenue on new construction isn't subject to the 101% limitation, and is assessed separately at the previous year's levy rate(s).

However, the current economic situation has caused property values to plummet since 2009. As the districts' assessed valuations fall, levy rates have been increasing to provide 101% of the previous year's tax revenue in an effort to meet rising expenses. Both districts have reached their statutory lids for both fire and emergency

**In 2013, the districts will receive \$500,000 less tax revenue than they did in 2012**





# Service as Funding Decreases

medical levies. With levy rates at their caps, property values continuing to decrease and very little new construction, this means that both districts are experiencing annual decreases in tax revenues. In 2013, the two districts are projected to collect about \$500,000 less in tax revenues than they collected in 2012. That's a 4% loss for this year alone on combined tax revenues of just over \$11 million.

This fall, both districts will ask voters to reauthorize the emergency medical services levy at the current rate, with no increase. Already at its maximum, the levy's approval will

not provide the districts with any additional revenue.

In an effort to meet the on-going challenges presented by the economy, North Kitsap Fire & Rescue and Poulsbo Fire Department have taken several steps. Administrative and non-response staff numbers have been trimmed through sharing of personnel or by leaving positions vacant when



employees leave the organizations. Capital purchases have been deferred or delayed. Out-of-district training has been cut dramatically, and supplies costs slashed despite skyrocketing fuel prices. Employees have declined wage increases, and steps have been taken to control growth in benefits costs.

Seconds count in fire and medical emergencies. To get help to you and your family as quickly as possible, the fire districts make sure that there are at least 16 professional firefighter/EMTs on-duty in the north-end's staffed fire stations every day – shown with solid red squares on the map at lower left. These forces are augmented by well-trained volunteers. Unstaffed stations are shown with red outlined squares on the map.

While it is the responders who deliver the service, support personnel play a vital role as well, keeping equipment ready, facilities maintained and performing required administrative functions.

It takes a team to successfully deliver services and, under difficult economic conditions, the team is working hard to do so as efficiently as possible.

**This fall, both districts will ask voters to renew the EMS levy at the current rate with no increase**

## Signs and Symptoms of Heart Attack and Stroke

According to the American Heart Association, heart and blood vessel disease are our nation's number one killer.

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, while some start slowly. Here are some of the signs that can mean a heart attack is underway:

**Chest discomfort** – Pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain in the center of chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or comes and goes.

**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body** – Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, the neck the jaw or the stomach.

**Shortness of breath**

**Other signs** – Cold sweats, nausea or lightheadedness.

**If you suspect a heart attack, call 911 immediately.**

**See the  
Emergency  
Medical  
Information Card  
on reverse**

Learn the signs and symptoms of stroke, and get help even if the symptoms go away:

**Face drooping** – One side of the face droops or is numb. The person's smile is uneven.

**Arm weakness** – One arm is weak or numb. When the person raises both arms, one drifts downward.

**Speech difficulty** – Speech may be slurred. The person may be unable to speak or hard to understand. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, and see if it's repeated correctly.

**Other signs** – Sudden numbness or weakness of the leg; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; sudden severe headache with no known cause.

**If you suspect a stroke, call 911 immediately.**





Fire Commissioners				
Position	North Kitsap Fire & Rescue	Term Expires	Poulsbo Fire Department	Term Expires
1	Wilson Stewart stewart@nkfr.org	2015	Jim Ingalls jingalls@poulsbofire.org	2015
2	Patrick Pearson, Chairman pearson@nkfr.org	2013	Conrad Green cgreen@poulsbofire.org	2013
3	Stephen Neupert neupert@nkfr.org	2017	Martin Sullivan msullivan@poulsbofire.org	2017
4	Gillian Gregory gregory@nkfr.org	2015	David Ellingson dellingson@poulsbofire.org	2017
5	Fernando "Espy" Espinosa espinosa@nkfr.org	2017	Darryl Milton, Chairman dmilton@poulsbofire.org	2013

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION

- ☐ Demerol
- ☐ Codeine
- ☐ Morphine
- ☐ Insect Stings
- ☐ Penicillin
- ☐ Aspirin
- ☐ Sulfa
- ☐ Other

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