

# The Pulse

Fire crews' decisive response to this July fire stopped it before it became necessary to evacuate the Jefferson Beach community. Sign up for KitsapALERT to make sure you're notified so you can act quickly when there's a significant event like a wildfire.



## Know When To Go Kitsap County Upgrades Community's Alert and Warning System

incident occurs in proximity to their home or work address. Notifications include basic information about the incident and provide the public with actions they can take to protect themselves and their property.

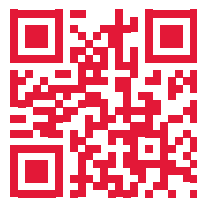
For privacy reasons, KCDEM was unable to transfer subscriber information from the previous platform into the new one. To ensure access to key safety information, members of the public must

sign up for the new service at [kcowa.us/alert](http://kcowa.us/alert).

While KitsapALERT has replaced the previous CWS, it is not a replacement for Community Connect. Community Connect serves a different role, providing a secure

portal where vital information about households and businesses can be stored and accessed by responding firefighters and emergency medical personnel. To sign-up for Community Connect, go to [communityconnect.io/info/wa-kitsapcounty](http://communityconnect.io/info/wa-kitsapcounty).

This past January, Kitsap County's Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM) replaced its previous community warning system (CWS) with a more robust CWS platform. KitsapALERT provides vital safety information to the public in the event of a disaster or emergency. Subscribers are notified via text, email and/or phone call when a significant event such as wildfire, hazardous materials or active shooter



[kcowa.us/alert](http://kcowa.us/alert)

### Ready, Set, Go

Wildfire-sparked evacuations are among the situations in which the CWS might be activated. Kitsap County has adopted the same system used across the state and the nation; It's important to know the evacuation levels and what each level means:

- **LEVEL 1 (Green) is READY:** Stay alert to the situation and be ready to evacuate.
- **LEVEL 2 (Yellow) is SET:** Get set to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- **LEVEL 3 (Red) is GO:** Go NOW!

The Pulse, published jointly at least once every year, is one of many cooperative efforts between your two local fire departments:



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



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

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Kids Corner  
Open House Schedule  
Project Updates

# Update from Your Fire Departments

Voters served by Poulsbo Fire Department and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue (NKF&R) approved a restoration of the districts' property tax levy rates in the fall of 2022. The successful measures have provided funding necessary to maintain levels of service while meeting the demand sparked by the community's continued growth. Furthermore, the additional revenue is helping the districts to implement their capital improvement plans.

NKF&R plans to replace its Suquamish station, built more than fifty years ago, long before modern safety standards were developed. The district's leaders continue to evaluate the best options and locations for the new facility to ensure that a thorough assessment is complete before funds are committed to the project. With transport distances averaging 45 miles round-trip, NKF&R's ambulances rack



up mileage quickly. The district is able to save on the resulting costs with top-notch care from the professionals on our apparatus maintenance team as well as by rechassisng ambulances when possible. One new ambulance has been ordered, and plans are underway for the rechassisng of three more. The specifications for the new fire engine are complete and the order is being finalized. Three new firefighters have been hired.

Poulsbo Fire Department has implemented their capital improvement plan to provide emergency responders with the facilities and equipment necessary to keep pace with a growing community. The largest project is the

construction of Station 76 on Viking Avenue which will significantly improve response times to the west side of the City of Poulsbo and the Scandia/Keyport area, while improving the reliability of rapid response times throughout the fire district as it will decrease the frequency of other stations responding to cover emergencies in that area of the district. The district is utilizing the Design-Build method for the construction of the station which is expected to reduce the overall project cost by 25-30% by working collaboratively with the general contractor to design and construct the most cost effective building that best meets the needs of the community. Station 76 is planned to be open and staffed by the 4th quarter of 2024. Visit [poulsbofire.org/station76](http://poulsbofire.org/station76) for more information.

The district was also able to purchase a new basic engine, to be placed at Station 72 in Surfrest, and a brush truck that has been placed into service at Station 77 on Pioneer Hill Rd. The district has also begun the process of purchasing an engine with an aerial device to meet the service levels needs resulting from the

**Poulsbo Fire**

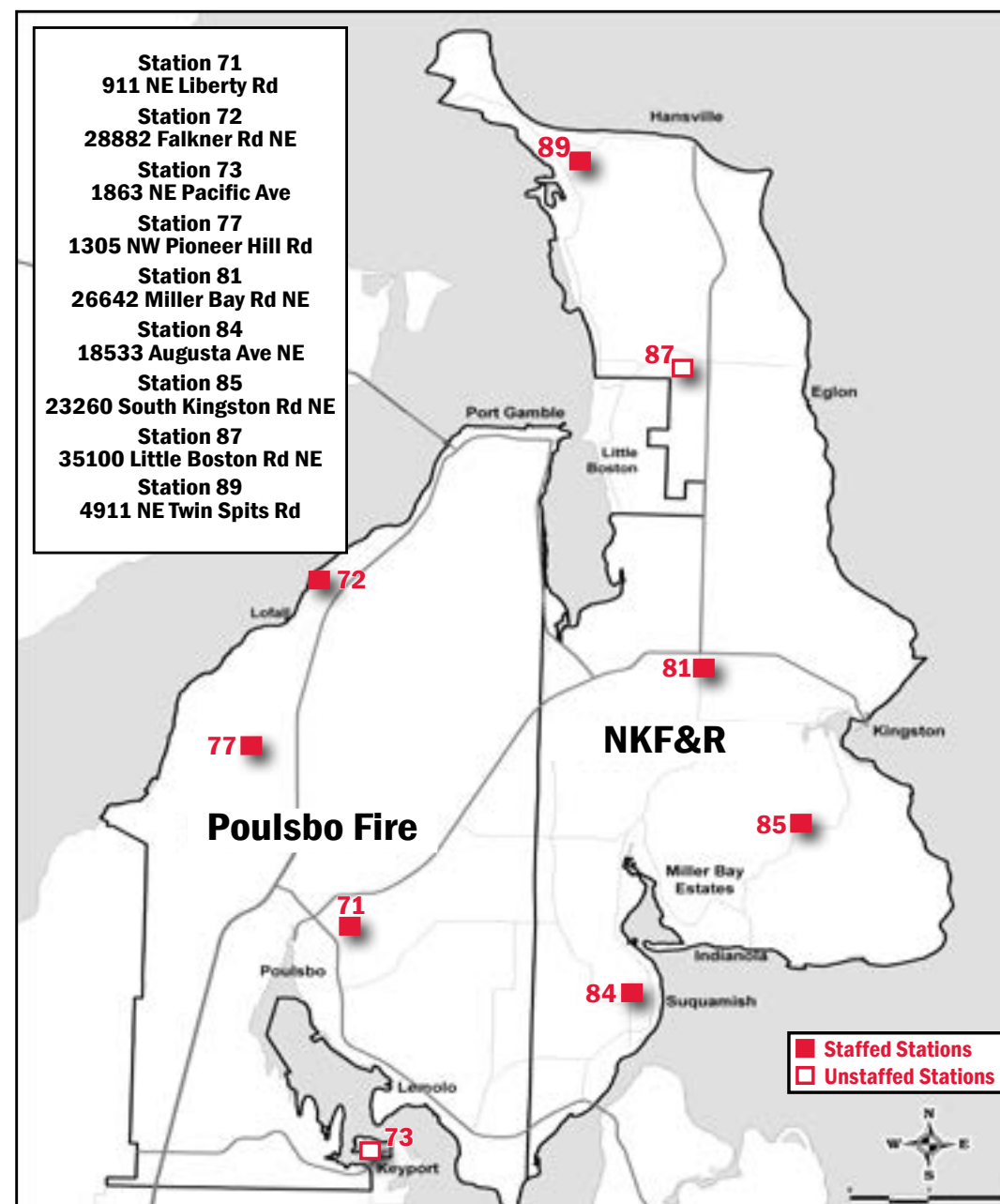
**Service Area:** 54 square miles  
**Population Served:** 27,586\*  
**2022 Actual Expenses:** \$10.5 million  
**2022 Total Calls:** 4,864  
**2022 Medical Calls:** 3,192 (66%)  
**Civilian Employees:** 6  
**Uniformed Employees:** 49  
**Volunteers:** 10  
**Fire Insurance Rating:** 4  
**Fire Chief:** Jim Gillard

\*2023 estimate based on OFM's 2022 data adjusted by the annual growth projection for our area



This illustration shows the location and features of Poulsbo Fire Department's new station. For more information, see [poulsbofire.org/station76](http://poulsbofire.org/station76).

growing number of taller commercial and multi-family residential buildings in the district.



When the temperatures drop and storms begin, fire risk goes up as heating devices and alternative lighting are used more frequently. Prepare for the winter season by having your fireplace or woodstove chimney cleaned and inspected by a certified professional. Make sure that all heat-generating



appliances have at least 36" of space from combustibles. Keep outdoor appliances (generators, BBQs, propane heaters, etc.) outside. Invest in battery-operated light sources to reduce the risk posed by candles during power

outages. Find more tips and checklists at [takewinterbystorm.org](http://takewinterbystorm.org).

## Winter is Coming

### Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 19, 2023

Register: [ShakeOut.org](http://ShakeOut.org)

**We're proud to print locally at Blue Sky Printers**

**NKF&R**

**Service Area:** 46 square miles  
**Population Served:** 21,081\*  
**2022 Actual Expenses:** \$10.1 million  
**2022 Total Calls:** 3,623  
**2022 Medical Calls:** 2,355 (65%)  
**Civilian Employees:** 9  
**Uniformed Employees:** 52  
**Volunteers:** 11  
**Fire Insurance Rating:** 4  
**Fire Chief:** Rick LaGrandeur

\*2023 estimate based on OFM's 2022 data adjusted by the annual growth projection for our area

## Fall Open Houses at the Fire Stations!

While it's best to report emergencies with a 9-1-1 call rather than with a visit to a fire station, the public is always welcome to visit our facilities for non-emergency purposes such as blood pressure checks. We're making a special invitation to visit our October Open House events. Join us to meet your firefighters, learn more about your fire departments, enjoy delicious refreshments and take home tips to help keep your family safe!

### Poulsbo Fire Department

- Saturday, October 7  
9 - 11 a.m.  
Station 71  
911 NE Liberty Road
- Saturday, October 14  
9 - 11 a.m.  
Station 77  
1305 NW Pioneer Hill Road
- Tuesday, October 17  
5 - 6:30 p.m.  
Station 73  
1863 NE Pacific Avenue
- Saturday, October 21  
9 - 11 a.m.  
Station 72  
28882 Falkner Road NE

### North Kitsap Fire & Rescue

- Saturday, October 7  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Station 84  
18533 Augusta Avenue NE
- Wednesday, October 11  
4 - 7 p.m.  
Station 89  
4911 NE Twin Spits Road
- Saturday, October 14  
2 - 5 p.m.  
Station 81  
26642 Miller Bay Road NE
- Tuesday, October 17  
4 - 7 p.m.  
Station 85  
23260 South Kingston Road NE

# Escape Planning Contest

Protect Your Family! Win Gift Certificates and Ice Cream Parties!

Firefighters know better than anyone that the best way to keep families safe from home fires is with working smoke alarms and a practiced fire escape plan. Every year, firefighters put their money where their mouths are and sponsor ice cream parties for the classroom at each school with the highest return rate of

correctly executed escape plans. This year, from the pool of correctly executed plans, we'll randomly draw the names of five lucky participants to receive nice gift certificates for treats from local businesses for the Kids Corner contest in this edition of the Pulse.

Visit the fire districts' websites ([nkfr.org](http://nkfr.org) and [poulsbofire.org](http://poulsbofire.org)) or the National Fire Protection Association's website ([fpw.org](http://fpw.org)) to find escape planning forms and

guidelines for making the best possible plans.

Some teachers have assigned the escape plan activity as homework, but every family can participate by submitting their plans directly to the fire departments via email to [laboda@nkfr.org](mailto:laboda@nkfr.org) no later than November 17.

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## Kids Corner



Kids are back in school and so are firefighters, teaching students about safety and showing off the fire engines and ambulances.

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.™

NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™ [fpw.org](http://fpw.org)

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## Cooking Safety Starts with YOU

The theme of this year's National Fire Prevention Week, October 8 - 14, targets the most common cause of house fires in the United States - cooking. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and fire deaths. In an effort to thwart these tragedies, the National Fire Protection Association is partnering with local fire departments like ours to suggest

simple but important steps to keep themselves and those around them safe.

- 1. Watch what you heat.** Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- 2. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.** Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- 3. Have a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet** around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared.

Find more info along with a host of fun children's activities at [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

### FIRE COMMISSIONERS

North Kitsap Fire & Rescue	Poulsbo Fire Department
Gillian Gregory, Chair ( <a href="mailto:gregory@nkfr.org">gregory@nkfr.org</a> )	Jim Ingalls, Chair ( <a href="mailto:jingalls@poulsbofire.org">jingalls@poulsbofire.org</a> )
Patrick Pearson ( <a href="mailto:pearson@nkfr.org">pearson@nkfr.org</a> )	David Ellingson ( <a href="mailto:dellingson@poulsbofire.org">dellingson@poulsbofire.org</a> )
John Huntington ( <a href="mailto:huntington@nkfr.org">huntington@nkfr.org</a> )	Jeff Uberuaga ( <a href="mailto:juberuaga@poulsbofire.org">juberuaga@poulsbofire.org</a> )
Stephen Neupert ( <a href="mailto:neupert@nkfr.org">neupert@nkfr.org</a> )	Darryl Milton ( <a href="mailto:dmilton@poulsbofire.org">dmilton@poulsbofire.org</a> )
Wilson Stewart ( <a href="mailto:stewart@nkfr.org">stewart@nkfr.org</a> )	Bill Whiteley ( <a href="mailto:bwhiteley@poulsbofire.org">bwhiteley@poulsbofire.org</a> )