

# FIRE

When **seconds** count...

# RESCUE



Summer 2010

## Inside

- Be Smart, Be Safe, Don't Drink and Drive **2**
- A Message From the Chief **3**
- CPR/First Aid Classes Offered **3**
- Open Water Safety Tips **3**
- Two-Year-Old Visits Fire Station **4**
- New Recruit Gets Training at State Fire Academy **4**

### Commissioners

Orval French  
 Kathleen Devin  
 Jonathan Sprouffske  
 Robert Johnson  
 Stewart Kunkel  
 E. J. Curry  
 Kathleen Bostwick  
 Clint Farmer  
 Steven Slater

### Fire Chief

Rita Hutcheson

### Deputy Chief

Mark King

## Contact Us

### S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority

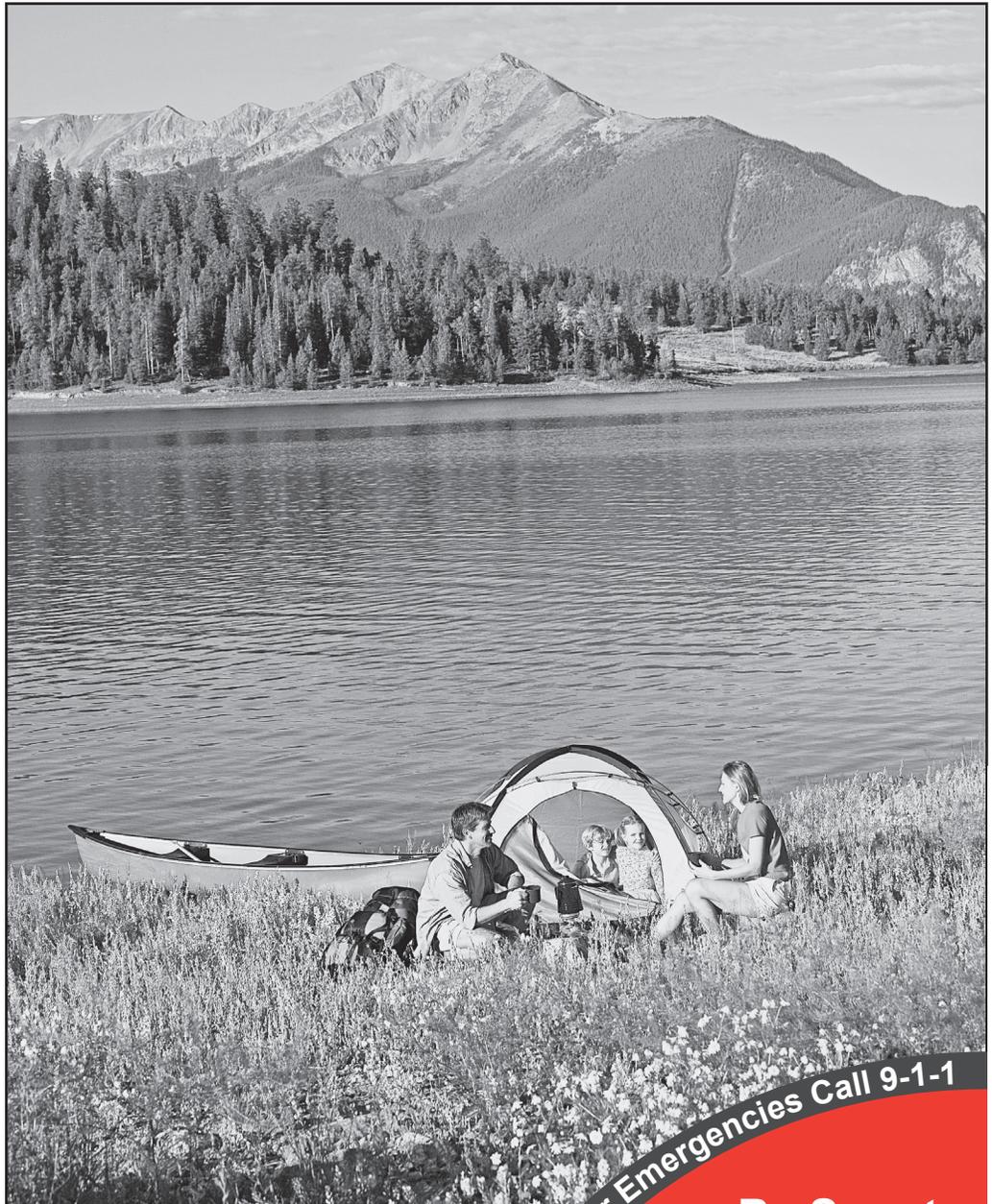
*Serving the Cities of Yelm and Rainier and the surrounding unincorporated areas*

PO Box 777  
 Yelm, WA 98597  
 (360) 458-2799

[www.sethurstonfire.org](http://www.sethurstonfire.org)

## Mission Statement

To prevent Loss of Life, Personal Injury and Damage from Fire, Disaster and Medical Emergencies through: Emergency Response, Training, Public Education and Information.



For Emergencies Call 9-1-1

**Be Safe,  
Don't Camp  
Too Close  
to Water!**

**Be Smart,  
Be Safe,  
Don't Drink  
and Drive**

*see page 2*

## Career

### Firefighters/EMTs

Rita Hutcheson, Fire Chief  
 Mark King, Deputy Chief  
 Steve Gesell, Assistant Chief  
 Eric Hetland, Captain  
 Don Wilson, Captain  
 Pat Kruse, Captain  
 Ann Holeman, Lieutenant  
 Matt Russell, Lieutenant  
 Russ Barstow, Lieutenant  
 Brian Richardson, Lieutenant  
 Dean Bastin  
 Curtis Behrens  
 Steve Berg  
 Tony Brosco  
 Wendy Carpenter  
 Lance Casto  
 Gilbert Eliason  
 Michael Fogarty  
 Mark Fritsch  
 Chad Halterman  
 Paul Harruff  
 Dan Stewart

## Volunteer

### Firefighters/EMTs

Pete Suver, Assistant Chief	Ted Christenson
Gerald Bickett	Franklyn Ramos
Matt Blasco	Bryan Chappell
Michael Coleman	Tom Floyd
Don Ireland	Justin Frank
Ksea Rogers	Jeanne Ring
Mike Sommer	Donald Weesner
Gordon Rose	Ken Wheeler

## Office Staff

Kris Kelly, Office Manager  
 Rhonda Civiletti, Administrative Assistant  
 Paul Shindell, Security/IT (Volunteer)  
 Jeff Radey, Fire Mechanic  
 Mike Sommer, Maintenance Coordinator  
 Kathleen Devin, EMS Coordinator  
 (Volunteer)  
 Steve Berg, Volunteer Editor  
 Paula Willadsen, Volunteer Public  
 Education Coordinator

## Support Volunteers

Tracy Carli	Larry Martin
Kathy Schleis	Dillon Pflugmacher
Joey Stang	Fran Morehead

*Be Smart,  
Be Safe,*

# Don't Drink and Drive

By Chris Rearden

**M**y wish for you and your family is that this never becomes your story as it has become ours. In September of 2009 my granddaughter left a party, we are still putting pieces together as to why. She knew she was to stay put. She knew not to drink and drive. She knew. She had been told over and over about the risk of driving too tired, driving too fast, driving and texting, and of driving after being at a party where there was alcohol. It was 9 months ago that she was told about the dangers again and had agreed to not take those risks. Less than 10 hours before she got into her car, fell asleep and hit a power pole and died, she had vowed not to. What changed in those 10 hours?

I haven't met many teens who don't have it all figured out. What do their parents know anyway? Parents are old and out of touch, no fun, and might even do the same things they tell us not to do. What do they know? They know how much it hurts to lose a loved one, how senseless and how preventable it can be. Don't touch hot things. Don't talk to strangers or take candy from them. Don't drink and drive.

If children touch hot things and realize it hurts, perhaps their parents are right about the other things they warn about. Many young drivers just think, "Maybe this one time I'll make it," or that something is so important that they don't heed the warnings, after all it's only this once. Kayla gambled that Friday night/early Saturday morning and we, her family, lost.

When asked to write a note for drinking and driving prevention, I didn't want Kayla remembered for one stupid decision she made that day, but remembered for the wonderful person she was and was going to be. She was always bigger than life. If something was going on, Kayla needed to be there. She was active in school. Her mom would tell her "Slow down puffy cheeks" because she was always rushing off to somewhere.

Do you want your life to become tattoos, your name painted on the railroad trestle, a white cross placed at the place where you died, or your name on a plaque in the cemetery? Is it worth the risk? Then go ahead, disregard the warning about drinking and driving and take that chance, the chance that there is something more important down the road than the rest of your life.

Parents, take a chance that your children will hate you for interfering with their life, rather than mourning their death. Take that chance.

Kayla knew the risks 10 hours before she died. She took the chance anyway and lost her life, and so will you or someone you love if they don't heed our warning. Don't take the risk of drinking and driving. It really is not all about you, but the ones you leave behind. 🍷

**Listen to  
your parents;  
drinking and driving kills!**



**Disclaimer:** The publication of S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority contains opinions, interpretations, assumptions and predictions of various authors. The management and WMS do not make warranties with respect to accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this publication. Its purpose is to enhance awareness of the fire district and disseminate information that is of vital concern to the public. Comments from the public are encouraged and should be sent to: Fire Chief Rita Hutcheson • PO Box 777 • Yelm, WA 98597 (360) 458-2799.

This newsletter was made possible through the generous donation of Ms. JZ Knight.



## A Message From the Fire Chief

By Rita Hutcheson, Fire Chief

**O**ur new name reflects several years of hard work by many in forming a consolidated fire district prepared to serve the citizens of the Cities of Yelm and Rainier and the surrounding unincorporated areas. We will continue to provide professional, caring emergency services in the most expeditious, efficient manner possible.

As your Fire Chief, I am your advocate, charged with maximizing your resources and creating efficiencies within the department. With the challenges our communities have faced and continue to face with an uncertain economic environment and the potential for regional disasters, I remain more dedicated than ever to this task.

You can be proud of the professional, caring men and women, both career and volunteer, of S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority. You can count on us each and everyday to serve you to the best of our abilities. 📞

## CPR/First Aid Classes Offered

**S**.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority is now offering CPR/First Aid classes monthly. The classes are being offered for \$15 a person, \$25 per couple and \$35 per family. About 80 percent of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in private residential settings, and drowning victims who are rescued from the water need CPR immediately, so being trained to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one. Classes are at the S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority station on Mill Road and you need to pre-register. Get trained today and save a life. For more information call **360-458-2799**. 📞

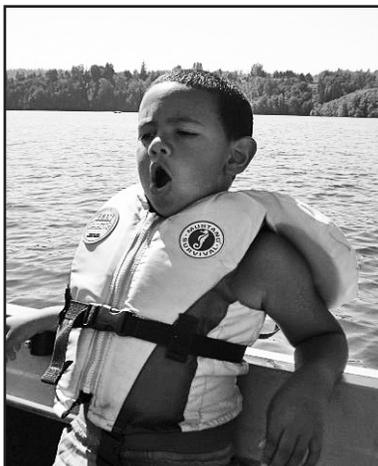


## Open Water Safety Tips

### Follow these tips around open water:

- Enroll your child in swimming lessons after age 4 – typically the earliest age when they are likely to practice and retain information. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore.
- Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming.
- Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool: they need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather. Do not to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface of the water.

Photo by Lieutenant Ann Holeman



### Protect your children while boating or rafting by following these steps:

- Always have your children wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on boats or around open bodies of water or participating in water sports. The life jacket should fit snugly and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through the neck opening.
- Do not overload the raft.
- Do not go rafting after a heavy rain.
- **Never drink alcoholic beverages while swimming, boating or rafting.**

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## ECRWSS RESIDENT

### *Two-Year-Old* **Visits Fire Station**

**O**n June 4, two year old Aaron Kitley wanted to go to the S.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority station and see the fire trucks for his birthday. Crews showed him the trucks and let him climb up inside. Aaron's mom, Dawn, said "that he is just fascinated with fire trucks". 📷



### *New Recruit* **Gets Training at State Fire Academy**

**S**.E. Thurston Regional Fire Authority's newest firefighter Wendy Carpenter is currently getting training at the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend, WA. Wendy is the first firefighter hired that has been sent to the academy.

North Bend Fire Academy is an intense ten-week program which provides hands-on training in the basics of fire fighting. From many classroom hours to participating in about 100 hours of live fire training, this course meets all the requirements of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress process. 📷



**Help Us Find You!**

**High Visibility Address Signs for Sale**

**Call (360) 458-2799**

- 3" white reflective letters on reflective blue background. **Sign only: \$16.00, Metal post: \$3.00**
- Visible up to 300 feet – Day or Night!

