

FIRE

When **seconds** count...

RESCUE



Winter 2010

Inside

Key Facts of a Regional Fire Authority **2**

Message from the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee **3**

When to call 9-1-1 for Medical or Fire Emergencies **4**

Before Your Fire Department Arrives **4**

Commissioners

Orval French
Kathleen Devin
Robert Johnson
Stewart Kunkel
Steven Slater
Jonathan Sprouffske

Chief Administration

Rita Hutcheson

Deputy Chief Operations

Mark King

Contact Us

S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS

Serving the Yelm & Rainier Communities

PO Box 777 • Yelm, WA 98597

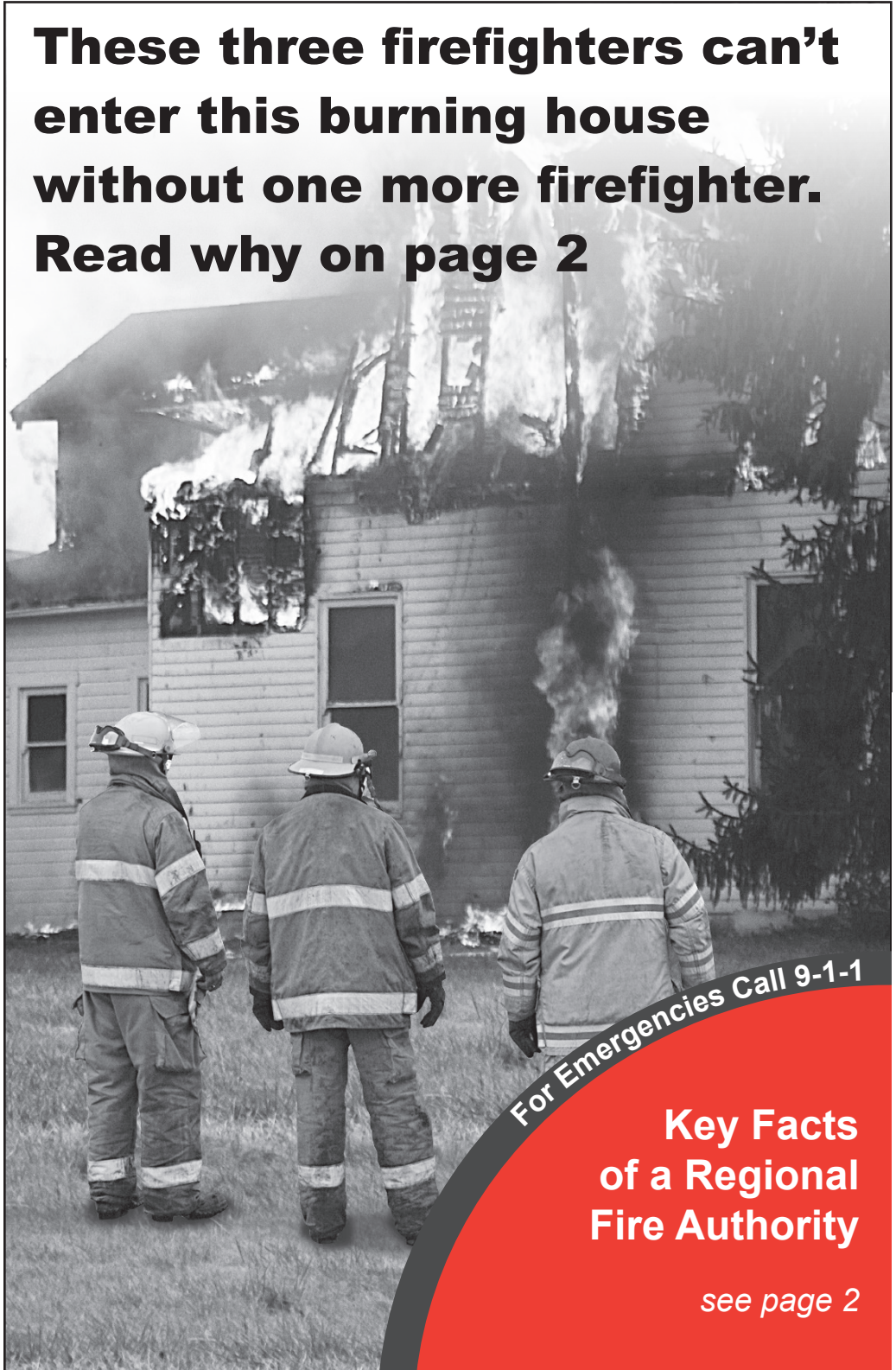
(360) 458-2799

www.sethurstonfire-ems.com

Mission Statement

S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS will provide professional, caring volunteer and full time responders to all manner of emergencies. We will strive to effectively utilize all available resources as provided by our community. We will train our responders to safely meet increasing call volumes and to fulfill the public need for education and prevention. We will respond with compassion and integrity, with respect and support for citizens in their time of need.

These three firefighters can't enter this burning house without one more firefighter. Read why on page 2



For Emergencies Call 9-1-1

Key Facts of a Regional Fire Authority

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
 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	Clayton Skinner
Michael Coleman	Bryan Chappell
Don Ireland	Tom Floyd
Noah Naipo	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)

Support Volunteers


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

Key Facts

Of a Regional Fire Authority

Why South East Thurston Fire Authority is being proposed, what the Fire Authority would accomplish, and how I can find out more information regarding the Fire Authority.

The city council and the Yelm Area Fire District have been working together for several years to bring this proposal to the voters. If you have questions, take the time to get the answers so your decision can be an informed one.

1. Thurston County Fire District #4 (Rainier), Yelm Fire District #2, and the City of Yelm are seeking voter approval to form the South East Thurston Fire Authority (SETFA) on the February 9, 2010 ballot.
2. Citizens living outside the Yelm City limits are currently paying \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This proposition will not change the current tax collection for citizens outside the city limits of Yelm.
3. Yelm residents will be taxed the same as county residents, but will now also be able to vote for fire commissioners and vote for levy lifts. At the same time, Yelm residents will be able to have a fire department that will serve their needs. Right now residents pay city taxes and the city contracts with the local fire department. If the proposed regional fire authority passes, Yelm residents will pay the fire authority tax in their property taxes instead of paying for fire protection in their city taxes.
4. The South East Thurston Fire Authority Operations Plan provides for improved service. Service improvements include the capability to provide 24 hour staffing at the Yelm Fire Station and the Rainier Fire Station. Staffing 2 stations help to decrease response times by decreasing the size of the area they cover and provides a minimum of 5 firefighters on duty making it possible to meet National Fire Protection Agency standards that require at least 4 firefighters on a structure fire before entering a burning building.
5. By increasing the number of on duty firefighters and staffing 2 engines, the fire department can apply for a reassessment by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. This reassessment could result in a reduction in the insurance rating for the City of Yelm, City of Rainier, and the unincorporated area outside the cities.
6. If voters approve the RFA in February, the new South East Thurston Fire Authority (SETFA) will replace the two (2) participating fire districts on July 1, 2010 with voter approved funding to take effect January 1, 2011. 

An all mail in election is occurring on February 9th.

**Fire/EMS
 Calls Up
 163 in 2009**

Disclaimer: The publication of S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS 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: Chief Rita Hutcheson • PO Box 777 • Yelm, WA 98597 • (360) 458-2799.

Message from the

Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

Planning Committee Members

Fire Commissioners

Yelm

Orval French
Stewart Kunkel
Steven Slater

Rainier

Kathleen Devin
Robert Johnson
Jonathan Sprouffske

Yelm City Council Members

Don Miller
John Thompson
Russ Hendrickson

The Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee consists of three elected fire commissioners from the Yelm Fire District, the Rainier Fire District and three City of Yelm Council members. This committee prepared a written plan to form a Regional Fire Authority (RFA). The formation of the RFA was to bring all three jurisdictions together under one operating authority—S. E. Thurston Fire Authority. The measure will again be put before the voters on February 9th election. Forming a regional fire authority is a process being replicated throughout the state as a cost cutting measure, consolidating smaller fire departments into one larger fire department.

For the past few years, Yelm Fire District, Rainier Fire District, and the City of Yelm have been operating as a single fire department, but without a single taxing authority. A specific challenge of this operation is that each jurisdiction was paying a different amount for fire and emergency medical services. Three years ago, residents in the county voted in a levy lid lift which taxed themselves at a higher rate than those in the City of Yelm. The RFA request is to bring all residents under one authority and at the same cost, so that the costs of this service are shared equally across the board, just as the protection offered by this service is shared.

What we need to ensure is that all residents understand that this formation of a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) was designed to bring equality to the process of paying for and making decisions over services that are shared by all.

The RFA Planning Committee simply asks February 9th: please read carefully what you are being asked to vote on, check the facts before you vote. 🗳️

Seconds Do Count

In an emergency, it is very important that your address marker is visible from the road so the firefighters/EMTs can find you quicker.

Ask yourself: 1) Can your house numbers be seen from the road? 2) Are the house numbers clearly visible on your mail box? 3) Can the numbers be read at night? 4) Can it be seen from both directions?

Order Your Address Sign Today!

- 3" white reflective letters on reflective blue background.
- Visible up to 300 feet – Day or Night!

- Address numbers on both sides or single side.
- Proceeds support the S.E. Thurston Firefighter Association

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Circle Preference:

Horizontal or Vertical

Installation is free to anyone living in areas served by S.E. Thurston Fire & EMS. Call (360) 458-2799 today!

Make checks payable & mail to:
S.E. Thurston Firefighter Association
PO Box 777, Yelm, WA 98597

	Qty.	Price per item	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Only		\$16.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Post		\$3.00	
Grand Total			

Please clip out and mail with check

Makes a great gift!

ECRWSS RESIDENT

An all mail in election is
occurring on February 9, 2010



(Please clip and adhere to your refrigerator)



When to call 9-1-1 for Medical or Fire Emergencies

What type of emergency

Is it a fire? Does someone need emergency first aid?

Full Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your Name _____

Phone (_____) _____ Age _____

Information to tell the dispatcher

If someone is sick, are they awake? Do you see smoke?
 Are they breathing? Is something on fire?

Emergency contact numbers

Relative/Friend: _____

Phone (_____) _____ Age _____

Relative/Friend: _____

Phone (_____) _____ Age _____

Doctor: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Hospital: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Does the person in need of help take any prescription
medications? Yes No If so what are they?

Before Your

Fire Department Arrives

After you have called 9-1-1, there are several things
you can do until Emergency Responders arrive. These
simple procedures will greatly aid the Emergency
Responders and the patient they will treat.

- Stay calm; do not get excited. This will reassure the patient that help is on the way.
- If you determine that the patient is pulseless and non-breathing, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), but only if you have been trained in this life saving technique. If you have not been trained in CPR, call 911 and ask for assistance over the phone. The 911 operator can give you step by step directions.
- Make the patient as comfortable as possible.
- Gather all the medications that the patient may be taking. This will help Emergency Responders better determine the medical history of the patient.
- Move all furniture or obstacles out of the way so Emergency Responders have easy access to the patient. Make sure all pets are secure in another part of the house.
- Remember the time, this is very important. When was the last time you talked to the patient? How long has this medical condition existed? How long has the person been unconscious?