

FIRELINE

THE SHORELINE FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

You won't see them arriving on an engine, or entering a burning building to save a life. But the members of the Shoreline Fire Investigation Team are already en route to a fire just minutes after the first 9-1-1 call.

Fire investigators, under the direction of Shoreline Fire Marshal Mark Bunje, are the firefighters who must make the final determination of what caused a fire. They are firefighters who have special training in finding, preserving, and photographing evidence. They also have training in interviewing, questioning, and the legal aspects of fire cases. You could say they are the fire department's own CSI team!

In Shoreline, fire investigators also do the daily work of the Fire Marshal's office: inspections, building plans reviews, alarm systems and other fire prevention activities. When they are dispatched to a fire scene, they often collaborate with the King County Fire Investigation Unit—which brings added expertise in the areas of arson and criminal intent.

Fire investigators are usually at the scene for many hours after the fire crews have left. Investigators carefully dig through piles of burnt and water-soaked debris. They are searching for clues to reveal the cause and origin of a fire. In a recent fatal house fire,

investigators interviewed numerous neighbors – and even relatives of the deceased—to try and discover clues about what happened.

What are some common causes of house fires? Most often it is food left unattended on the stove, a carelessly discarded cigarette, or furniture placed too close to baseboard or portable heaters. Too many fires are caused by candles. Sometimes the cause is an electrical system or appliance malfunction. Even if the fire was unavoidable, death and injury in house fires are definitely preventable.



Left to right: Mark Bunje, Greg Hewett, Todd Malo, Ron Burden

When Shoreline Fire Marshal Bunje determines the cause of a fire, he often adds an educational message for the public – another part of his job in fire prevention. "House fires are destructive, life-changing and often tragic events," he says. "But loss of life is the most devastating aspect of a fire. Check your smoke detectors monthly. Make sure you have one on every level, inside and outside of bedrooms. Create and practice an escape plan with your family."

As one who has investigated dozens of fires in Shoreline, Bunje's most important job is still saving lives.



FIRE DEPARTMENT FAQ

Does Shoreline Fire solicit funds over the phone? I get calls asking me to donate to the Fire Department or to firefighters. Are these calls legitimate?

The Shoreline Fire Department will never call you to solicit donations over the phone. Our operating funds come from a property tax levy that Shoreline taxpayers support. We sometimes hear of phone solicitors who say they are from the Fire Department. If this is the case, they are misrepresenting themselves!

There is a legitimate organization that uses fundraisers to ask for donations to the Washington State Council of Firefighters. The Council represents the union that firefighters belong to, the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF). These callers are usually selling concert tickets that benefit firefighters – a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales support the union and its work. The Washington State Council of Firefighters closely monitors the work of its fundraisers. If you have a complaint about one of these calls, you can report it to the WSCFF at 1-800-923-3473.

Finally, some citizens ask us how they can donate money to the Fire Department. We have several special funds that are available to accept donations. Sometimes people want to donate on behalf of a loved one who has died. People also want to show their sup-

port for us through financial assistance. *Here are some options you can consider:*

Shoreline Firefighters' Association: a non-profit benevolent group consisting of Shoreline Fire employees. Activities include Swinging Summer Eve barbecue, Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Claus engine tours, and other community events.

From the Heart: A fund that firefighters can use when patients need help that is not related to emergency medical care (ie. food, transportation, homeless issues, etc.).

Shoreline Medic One Foundation: Funds used for community support of Shoreline Medic One paramedics, which is funded entirely through King County EMS.

Shoreline Aid Car Fund: helps supplement basic life support service with funding for equipment and supplies.

Some things Shoreline Fire's **From the Heart** fund has paid for:

- Cab ride to the ER for the family of a trauma victim
- Hot meal for homeless woman found walking on Aurora
- Baby food and formula for a domestic violence victim
- Fred Meyer gift card for elderly couple injured in car crash

FIRE LINE CALENDAR

JUNE 29 Fire Department Day at the Museum of Flight 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

JULY 25 Shoreline Firefighters' Barbecue at Swinging Summer Eve, Cromwell Park, 5:00 p.m.

SEPT 18 Safe Sitter® class begins 3:30 p.m. Shoreline Fire headquarters

OCTOBER 2 CERT 3-week class begins 6:30 p.m. Shoreline Fire headquarters

OCTOBER 20 Have Lunch with Us! Fire Department Open Houses 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

AUGUST 18 Shoreline Fire leads the Celebrate Shoreline Parade 11:00 a.m.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- New Defibrillators
- Safe Sitter® Classes
- SleepOver Safety
- Getting to Know You
- Fire Event Calendar
- Firehouse Dog
- Incident Responses





SHORELINE FIRE RECEIVES NEW DEFIBRILLATORS!!

This month the Shoreline Fire Department along with several others are using new “state of the art” heart monitors and defibrillators. We were very fortunate to receive 21 Philips MRx defibrillators at no cost to our community. Philips Medical has graciously donated new heart monitors to several Fire and EMS agencies in North King County that will allow us to enter into an upcoming CPR trial. The equipment donated to us is valued at just under \$500,000!

A CPR study called ROC

Seattle and King County are known to be the best place in the world to have your heart stop. Since the early 1970's King County has led the way in surviving cardiac arrest (a condition where your heart stops and if not restarted immediately you will die). For many years we have been able to bring people back from arrest about 34% of the time, which is way above the national average of 5-10%.

Now Shoreline and King County will be entering into a study to see if we can do even better. The ROC (Resuscitation Outcome Consortium) study will look at how we do CPR today and how we can potentially do it better tomorrow. In fact they will be looking nine other major cities both in the US and Canada. When we finish we will have completed the most comprehensive look at how bystander CPR, public defibrillators, firefighters and paramedics interact and how best to try to bring someone back to life. It is

truly the largest study to ever look at how people are resuscitated in the pre-hospital setting.

How will we know???

Our new Philips MRx machines not only provide heart monitoring and defibrillation. They also monitor exactly how well we are doing CPR. The MRx then gives real time feedback to allow us to optimize everything we are doing for our patient. These machines also collect many other data elements including the voices of the emergency responders.

This new equipment and the ROC study have the potential to change everything we do for people in their most vulnerable time. When finished, we believe that not only will we continue to lead the nation in cardiac arrest survival, but we will set a standard that other communities should strive for.

Shoreline Fire's Safety Center continues to be a BIG hit!

If you'd like to visit too, call 206-533-6500.



“Thanks for providing fun AND fire safety all in one place!”

Class size is limited – so register early!

SHORELINE FIRE OFFERS SAFE SITTER® CLASSES

The Shoreline Fire Department will offer a three-session class for 11 to 13 year olds who want to be sure they are qualified to do babysitting.

Shoreline's Safe Sitter® class will be held after school on Tuesday and Thursday, September 18 and 20, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. A final class will be held Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

Classes will be held at Shoreline Fire Department headquarters, 17525 Aurora Avenue North. There will be a \$15.00 fee for a manual and course completion card.

The nationally recognized Safe Sitter® curriculum includes the following topics:

- Choking prevention
- Caring for a choking child
- Basic first aid
- Personal safety
- Injury prevention
- Babysitting ethics
- The business of babysitting
- Fire and life safety for children

What a great way to make after school a productive time! You will learn new skills, and enhance your knowledge about caring for children and starting your own babysitting business. You must attend all three sessions. Many families require their babysitters to have this training!

To ask questions or register for the Safe Sitter® class, call Melanie at 206-533-6500 or email Melanie@shorelinefire.com



Safe Sitter® Class

Learn new skills, and enhance your knowledge about caring for children

Tuesday, September 18 – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 20 – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 22 – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Shoreline Fire Dept. HQ
17525 Aurora Ave N

\$15.00 per participant

To Register:
206-533-6500
melanie@shorelinefire.com



Cut and post

SLEEPOVER SAFETY

Many of us teach our children all about fire safety at home. But what about when your children stay somewhere else at night? Shoreline Fire recommends that you check out the Sleepover Safety checklist and talk with your child about what to do in case of fire in other homes, public buildings, businesses and at school.

Before the sleepover:

Ask the parents...

...if there are working smoke alarms on every level, throughout their home.

...if they have a well-rehearsed fire escape plan that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside.

...where your child will be sleeping. Is there a smoke alarm in or near the room?

...if there are two escape routes from the room.

...if they will walk through their escape plan with your child.

...if they prohibit bedroom candle use by children.

...that you will walk their child through your plan when invited to stay overnight in your home.

Does your child...

...recognize and awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm?
Important: If not, tell the sleepover parents that your child does not waken to the smoke alarm and that someone will have to wake them in an emergency.

...know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds?

...know that he or she cannot hide from fire and that the top priority is to get out and stay out until firefighters say it is safe to go back inside?

...know the fire department emergency number?

...feel empowered to ask about the friends' escape plan?

...feel empowered to tell you if there is a dangerous practice or situation at the friends' home?

Tell the parents...

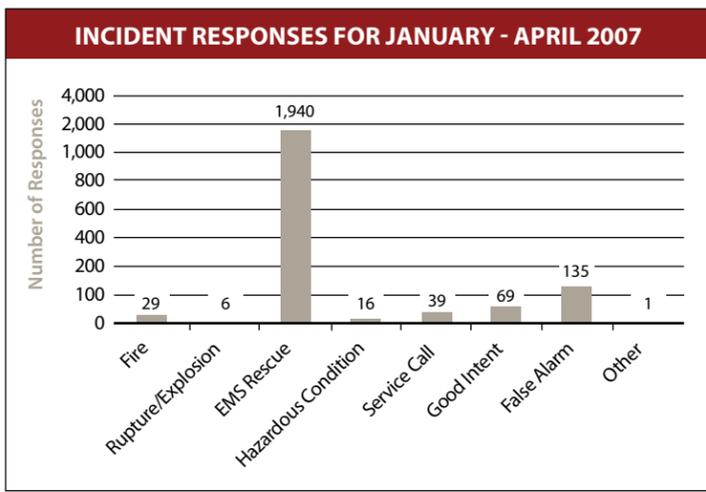
...about your home escape plan and the fire protection equipment you have in your home.





17525 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133
206-533-6500 | www.shorelinefire.com

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Explanation of Incident Types

EMS/Rescue: medical assist, patient assist, transport, trauma injury, medical emergency, vehicle crash, etc.

Hazardous condition: gas or oil leak, combustible spills, power line down, shorted electrical equipment

Service call: water leak, flooding, smoke or odor removal, unauthorized burning.

Good intent: dispatched and cancelled en route, odor of smoke, possible person needing help, authorized controlled burning, caller is concerned but no emergency is found.

Fire: confirmed fire incidents of any size.

FIRELINE

Spring 2007

Shoreline Fire Department—serving residents of Shoreline since 1939

www.shorelinefire.com

FIRELINE

Welcome to the third edition of Shoreline Fire's community newsletter.

Let us know what you think! We would like to hear from you with questions, story suggestions, and feedback.

Call us at 206-533-6500 or email the Chief at mkragness@shorelinefire.com

Also, don't forget to visit our website for continuous updates and information about Shoreline Fire.

www.shorelinefire.com



Firefighter/Paramedic Tracy Clinch with Grace, her dalmatian that she keeps at home.

WHERE IS SHORELINE'S FIREHOUSE DOG?

A most-frequently-asked-question during fire station tours is "Where's your Dalmatian?" And, with the recent movie release "Firehouse Dog", even more folks want to know if Shoreline Fire has a dog around the firehouse, too.

While we don't keep dogs at fire stations anymore, we do have a very cool firehouse dog story! About 7 years ago, firefighters were polishing the engine at headquarters when a man drove up and begged them to take a Dalmatian he had just found in the middle of the road. Firefighter Tracy Clinch fell instantly in love with the dog. When the humane society determined the Dalmatian had been abandoned, Tracy adopted her. Now "Grace" lives with Tracy's family – and we all believe that Grace found her way to the Shoreline firehouse for a reason!

So how did the tradition of Dalmatians in the fire service get started? Back in the days of horse drawn fire carts, they provided a valuable service. Dalmatians and horses are very compatible, so the dogs were easily trained to run in front of the engines to help clear a path and guide the horses and the firefighters to fires. They are still chosen by many firefighters as pets in honor of their heroism in the past.

Today, the Dalmatian serves as a fire house mascot. Pictures and symbols of the Dalmatian are everywhere in the fire service. And don't forget "Sparky", the most famous fire dog of all! He has been an important symbol of fire safety for children for decades.