



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF by Nick Walsh

### Joint Fire Training Academy Strengthens Island Fire Services

South Whidbey Fire/EMS (SWFE) joins with Oak Harbor Fire Department in a Fire Training Academy from now through early May. This year's collaborative effort is training eight new career firefighters here on Whidbey, five from Oak Harbor Fire Department and three from SWFE. Locations at both Oak Harbor and South Whidbey allow recruits to train on fire engines and support equipment they will be using, as well as get to know who they will work with once they join their respective fire departments.

By training recruits locally rather than at the state academy in North Bend, both agencies make more efficient use of personnel and resources as they deliver high-quality, hands-on instruction tailored to both Oak Harbor and South Whidbey.

The shared academy not only saves money, it strengthens operational consistency and teamwork between both departments for whenever sizeable emergencies bring them together.

SWFE Lieutenant Leah Kalahiki serves as SWFE officer for our recruits, Nikki Hagen, Drew Harvey, and Jacob Lykken.

The joint academy reflects commitments of both fire departments to smart collaboration, fiscal responsibility, and best possible training for firefighters you depend on whenever you need them.

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## OUR CORE VALUES

Core values guide actions and shape culture. Ours influence how we interact with the public as well as each other. With those values in mind, South Whidbey Fire EMS serves our community proudly as we respond to emergencies, work to prevent fires, prepare for regional disasters, and educate citizens on how to prepare for disasters. Our core values are:



**Integrity**



**Compassion**



**Professionalism**

**“Protect Lives, Serve with Compassion, Respond with Excellence”**

INTEGRITY  
COMPASSION  
PROFESSIONALISM

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### FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Jim Towers  
Position 1

Mike Noblet  
Position 2

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Position 3

### CONTACT US

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



[SWFireEMS](https://www.facebook.com/SWFireEMS)

NEW TRAINING CENTER

South Whidbey Fire/EMS announces the completion of a new Fire Training Center located on the hilltop behind Bayview fire station. With it, our firefighters get hands-on training in how to identify and control hazards to reduce risks of injury to themselves or other firefighters. Such realistic training scenarios hone firefighters’ survival instincts when in burning buildings and manage their stress levels so they make wise decisions quickly under pressure. The result: They gain confidence in themselves and their abilities.

So, join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Bayview fire station located at 5579 Bayview Road in Langley. Call SWFE at 360-321-1533 for more information.



ADDRESS SIGNS 1234

We can’t help you, if we can’t find you! Make sure emergency responders can locate you without delay by having your address numbers visible day and night and placed adjacent to your driveway, facing the road. SWFE prefers blue address plaques with white numbers for high visibility, and one per residence is available at no charge, so visit [www.swfe.org](http://www.swfe.org) to learn more.

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| <p><b>SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE EMS</b><br/>5579 Bayview Road<br/>Langley, WA 98260</p>                       |                                                                                     |
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