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# BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND RESERVE OFFICERS

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December 2005

## Covered vs. Uncovered Activities

We still frequently hear questions from departments about what activities are covered and what activities are not.

As a general rule of thumb, we can only cover work of an emergency nature. Firefighters, EMT's, and police officers must be performing work that is directly related to an emergency, preparing for an emergency, and the prevention or mitigation of an emergency.

### Covered Activities:

- **Drill and Training** (injuries received while drilling and training. Travel to and from drill and training is generally not covered)
- **Emergency Response** (from the time the tones go off or the dispatch is received to the time they go home or until their first stop)
- **Work in or about Company Quarters** (work around the station that volunteers are required to perform by the chief or other officer having authority to order such work...it must be work of an emergency nature)
- **Physical Training** (department must have an SOP or SOG requiring physical training or fitness, there must be safety guidelines in place and followed, and the training must take place at the station. Off site training will NOT be covered)

### Uncovered Activities

- **Competitive Sports** (ANY sports activities as well as competitions with other departments, agencies, and organizations, as well as all competitions that are not part of a regularly scheduled drill night or which could be considered part of a public exhibition)
- **Social Activities** (ANY activities that are social in nature and do not contribute to the business of firefighting. These may include, but are not limited to department dinners, parties of any kind, holiday celebrations or their preparations, work about the community or station not of an emergency nature)

### ***Simple Emergency Responder Rules:***

*The important things are always simple.*

*The simple things are always hard.*

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## BVFF BACK ISSUES

WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE TOOK A LITTLE SPACE OUT OF THIS NEWSLETTER TO INDEX BACK ISSUES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO REFERENCE ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS. IF YOU NEED MISSING COPIES OF ANY NEWSLETTERS, YOU MAY GET THEM ONLINE FROM [WWW.BVFF.WA.GOV](http://www.bvff.wa.gov) OR BY CALLING OUR OFFICE.

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## BVFF Website

We are constantly adding new features to our website. If you haven't been there in a while, we encourage you to check it out. Our address is [www.bvff.wa.gov](http://www.bvff.wa.gov)

Just a few of the great things you can find there are:

Invoice Vouchers  
Remittance Forms  
Report of Physical Examination  
for Membership  
Physician's Letter of Introduction  
Interruptive Military Service Info.  
Pension Tables  
Outline of the Plan  
EFT Form  
Procedure Manual  
Electronic Postcard Submission  
Biographies for the Staff & Board  
Fire Service Links  
RCW's  
Newsletters (current & archived)  
Contact Information

## A Word from the Executive Secretary

*Brigette K. Smith*

I think that one of my most memorable experiences over the last year as Executive Secretary was having the honor of representing my agency at a National Benefit Summit held in New York.

Many of us can agree that there is something almost sacred about the State of New York ever since the terror attack on the World Trade Center. Although I did not visit Ground Zero on this trip, I was able to see the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial and the Fallen EMS Worker's Memorial.

As many of you know, I followed the story of Richard Pearlman, an 18 year old volunteer, who was killed at the World Trade Center. He was photographed by Newsweek helping other people, but then was never seen again. I was able to visit the memorial and locate his name. It was a moment that will always stand out in my memory.

Each day that we respond to emergencies as firefighters, EMT's, and police officers, we put our lives on the line. We don't do this for personal gain and often only receive personal satisfaction for the sacrifices we make. We've missed holiday dinners, our children's first steps, football games, concerts, births, and weddings. I hope that all of you take this season to remind yourselves how special you really are to your community and your neighbors. While you may miss those things, you ensure that others will live in safety to enjoy those moments. In turn, please don't forget to thank your spouse, significant other, and/or parent for the sacrifices they have made to support you through the years. Without them, you couldn't be who you are.

I believe that seeing memorials like Richard's not only remind us of who he was, but also of who we are and the special place that our communities hold for us, even if it doesn't always seem obvious to us.



## Welcome our Newest Employee, Sandi Williams

This past September, our agency was lucky enough to hire a 4<sup>th</sup> employee, Sandi Williams. Sandi will work as an Office Assistant and her primary duties will consist of answering the phone and providing support to the other three staff members.

Sandi was born in Centralia and has lived in Lacey for the last 25 years. She graduated from North Thurston High and attended Shoreline Community College. She has two children and five grandchildren (including a set of twins).

Sandi spent three years working as a temporary employee for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Prior to that, she operated an in-home daycare, spent some time working for Sunset Life Insurance, some for State Farm Insurance, and some for Providence Mother Joseph's Care Center.

In her off time, Sandi helps to care for her 91 year old mother and loves to spend time with her grandchildren. She says that she feels extremely lucky to be able to work with our staff and with the departments. Everyone has been very kind, helpful, and patient with her.

## Annual Remittance Forms

Yes, it is that time of the year again; time to begin preparing your annual remittance forms. As you prepare them, please keep the following in mind:

- All forms should be at least size 12 font.
- All forms must be printed on 8 ½ x 14 paper.
- All names must be alphabetized.
- Social Security numbers and birthdates must be submitted for every member.
- Only list the members that were active members of your department as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. All members that joined the department after January 1<sup>st</sup> must be listed on a separate remittance form.
- Write N/A in the pension fee columns if they are not allowed to make a pension payment for 2006
- Do not pay pensions for members that already have 25 years of paid service, but do pay their relief fee.
- List your full district name under municipality. Don't abbreviate as SCFD #2, since we won't know what county you're from.
- Members must be at least 16 years old to be covered.
- Writing \$30.00 in the Firefighter paid column and \$30.00 in the Municipality column means that the firefighter contributed \$30.00. If (s)he didn't contribute \$30.00, then write \$60.00 in the municipality column. There can be serious tax implications if you do not do this correctly.
- Only active volunteer firefighters, EMT's, and commissioned reserve officers are allowed to participate in the Volunteer Firefighters' and Reserve Officers Relief and Pension Act.

## 2006 Annual Fees

Annual fees are due January 1, 2006 and are delinquent March 1, 2006. 2006's annual fees are as follows:

### Reserve Officers and EMSD's:

\$100.00 for relief (disability)

\$125.00 for pension (\$30 member/\$95.00 municipality)

### Fire Departments:

\$30.00 for relief (disability)

\$60.00 for pension (\$30.00 member/\$30.00 municipality)

Board For Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers  
PO Box 114  
Olympia, WA 98507