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Winter storms and natural disasters are not preventable but they are predictable. Get ready now!

Find out how you can best prepare at [www.mclanefire.org](http://www.mclanefire.org)



*Serving the community since 1952*

## The Santa Sleigh Food Drive is Coming to Town!

Soon Santa and his firefighter friends from McLane Black Lake Fire Department will be hitching up the sleigh and taking to the streets to spread good cheer and collect much needed food for the Thurston County Food Bank. Your generous donations help feed families in need and provide food for children through the FORKids program. Some of the items on the wish list are: Single serving cereal, Easy Mac & Cheese, fruit cups, pudding cups, breakfast bars, juice boxes, Beanie Weenie (flip top cans), individual tuna packages Chef



Boyardee microwavable pasta cups, canned proteins, canned fruit, soups and low sodium canned vegetables. See page 2 for Santa's schedule and look for the signs of when he will be visiting your area. He will be visiting your neighborhood soon!



## Preparedness, Response, & Prevention

*By Leonard Johnson, Fire Chief*

As we approach the end of another year, I wanted to take a moment to share with you, our residents and customers, the progress here at McLane Black Lake Fire Department. The team here is successful, in no small part, due to the support of the great community that we serve. Additionally, it is a direct result of your support that we provide a high-quality service.

Over the last two years, the Fire

District has strived to put in place funding strategies to sustain operations into the future. Thank you for helping us achieve that! Residents currently enjoy a stable fund source that has lowered the rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value to one of the lowest combined rates in the last 10 years. This helps us meet your needs while keeping costs low.

The Fire District continues the support and development of our workforce

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## SANTA'S ROUTES

### SOUTH DISTRICT NOVEMBER 27 – NOVEMBER 30

- November 27** *Evergreen Shores*
- November 28** *Lake Lucinda, Delphi Country Club, Northhill, Westhill/Foothill, Alpine*
- November 29** *Salmon Shores, Camelot, Cougar Ridge*
- November 30** *Columbus Park, 60th, 61st Ct, Fairview*

### NORTH DISTRICT DECEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 7

- December 4** *Cedrona, Hidden Ridge, Madera, Rock Maple Apts., Evergreen Gardens Apts., Rainwood Ct.*
- December 5** *Westwood Estates, Wesley Loop, Country Club*
- December 6** *Ashlynn Estates (off Overhulse Rd.), Wood Trails, Kaiser & Cooper Pt., Tamoshan*
- December 7** *Brenner, Aspinwall, Summit Lake*

**Track Santa!**

[www.glympse.com/!mblfd\\_santa\\_sleigh](http://www.glympse.com/!mblfd_santa_sleigh)

## Meet Our New Staff!

### Josh Ambrose, Chief of Logistics

Chief Ambrose joined MBLFD in June 2023 and quickly assumed several logistic projects and operation analysis. He graduated from Montesano High School, attended the Universal Technical Institute for Diesel Mechanics, and is

currently a 25+ year volunteer Captain at Grays Harbor Fire District #2 where he has been involved in operations, volunteer recruitment, recruit academies, as well as local and regional training. To add to his public service, he has 24+ years with the City of Hoquiam as a maintenance worker, ascending the promotional ladder to Public Works Superintendent for the last 3 years while obtaining many certifications. His experience managing projects, purchasing, and planning within all the departments of Public Works is something our department is looking forward to utilize in the coming years.



### Brett Warwick, Business Operations Director



Warwick joined the agency in April of 2023 after studying Operations Management at Western Washington University and spending 10 years working in supply chain management through Costco's headquarters and community based organizations. This has

offered experience in a wide variety of management practices, financial problem solving, continuous improvement, and learning effective marketing strategies. In his free time, he enjoys creating through graphic design, photography, painting and experimenting in the kitchen. You might also find him in the back country as he takes advantage of the incredible Washington landscapes at every opportunity.

*The Board of Fire Commissioners meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 125 Delphi Rd NW. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.*

# Fire Chief Message Ctd . . .

*Continued from Page 1*

to meet our mission. Critical to the delivery of our services is our operations staff. As a combination department, we rely heavily on both regular career staffing and volunteer personnel. This year we have added three new personnel to the agency on shift and 9 new volunteers have progressed through the training program. As the Fire District moves into 2024, we will continue to build on those strengths and add 3 additional personnel to the career ranks bringing us to 28 personnel.

In addition, we have added a new Business Operations Director and Division Chief of Logistics. Restructuring these functions has increased our capacity to do work more efficiently. Please take a few minutes to look at their introductions and background in this newsletter. Both positions have created new capacity in the agency to broaden support for programs. The new Division Chiefs position also supports the volunteer and resident program,

including recruitment of personnel. We are still in need of volunteer firefighters for Stations 93 (Summit Lake) and Station 92/94 (Cooper Point).

For the community, the Fire District will be looking to engage with a Citizen Advisory Committee to provide input to the developing, updating and validating of our strategic plan. This will bring together members of the Board of Commissioners, citizens advisories from different communities within the Fire District and staff members from different programs areas. The goal is to build a plan that represents the diverse needs of our community while focusing on our core missions – preparedness, response, and prevention.

As we look to the work ahead, let's not forget that the community is coming into some busy months for weather related impacts. Rain, snow, flooding, wind, and bad driving

conditions will create challenges throughout the next several months. Follow the Fire District's social media interfaces or website for updated up-to date information. You can also look to our preparedness and alerting partners at:

- **National Weather Service** (Seattle/Tacoma, WA (weather.gov))
- **Thurston County Emergency Management** (Emergency Management | Thurston County (thurstoncountywa.gov))
- **Washington Emergency Management** – Preparedness Section (Preparedness | Washington State Military Department, Citizens Serving Citizens with Pride & Tradition)

Look to our website for other important information about being prepared and staying up to date. Enjoy the holiday season and please feel free to reach out to us anytime if you need us.

## RESOURCES FOR YOU

*Following are some of the resources available to residents living within the area served by McLane Black Lake Fire Department:*

*First Aid CPR Classes  
Custom Address Signs  
Home Safety Inspections  
FREE Battery-Operated  
Smoke Detectors  
Bicycle Helmets  
Wildfire Risk Assessments*

*Disaster preparedness and other educational resources are always available on the District's website: [www.mclanefire.org](http://www.mclanefire.org)  
Partnering with our community to mitigate risk is always a priority.  
If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call **360-866-1000** or visit us at [www.mclanefire.org](http://www.mclanefire.org).*

## SELF SERVE SAND BAG LOCATIONS

**Station 91 - 125 Delphi Rd. NW**

**Station 93 - 2815 Summit Lake Shore Rd.**

**Station 95 - 5911 Black Lake Blvd. SW**

## FACTS



**2 of every 5** home decoration fires are started by candles

**Nearly half** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source





Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to gather together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following the tips below will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



### Holiday Decorating

- \* Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame retardant.
- \* Keep heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters at least 3 feet away from your Christmas tree.
- \* Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- \* Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.
- \* Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- \* Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



### Holiday Entertaining

- \* Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- \* Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- \* Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- \* Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- \* Ask anyone who smokes to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their materials with them so young children do not have access.
- \* Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



*Before Heading Out  
the Door or to Bed...*

**Blow out** lit candles and **Turn off** all the light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

McLane Black Lake Fire Department  
125 Delphi Rd NW  
Olympia, WA, 98502

Household Voter(s)