



SOUTH BEACH REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

sbrfa.org • 360-268-9832

SUMMER 2026



Daryl Brown, Fire Chief

A Message from the Fire Chief

South Beach Regional Fire Authority has needed a fire station for some time to replace its Westport facility. Public safety and firefighter health concerns are driving this project.

The Westport facility is in a flood and tsunami zone, not earthquake-resistant or ADA-compliant. Its location is not central to our service area, and its layout—such as sleeping quarters far from apparatus

bays—can delay emergency response times.

Firefighter health is also a concern. Cancer is a leading cause of firefighter deaths, and the current station lacks modern safety features like diesel exhaust removal systems and decontamination units for firefighters returning from calls.

SBRFA purchased a building in the Englewood area to renovate into an improved station, at about half the cost of new construction. The site is centrally located, outside hazard zones, near major roads, adjacent to our training facility, and has space for updated health and safety features to protect our firefighters.

Careful planning went into funding for this project. Voters approved an excess levy of \$0.77 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It expired in 2025 and the fire district did not ask to renew it. The bond to renovate the Englewood property is \$0.37 per \$1,000, or about \$10.79 per month/\$129.50 per year for the average property owner (defined as \$350,000).

The Board of Fire Commissioners has placed the measure on the August 4, 2026 primary election ballot. A bond ensures that property owners who do not live here full-time pay their fair share.

Assistant Chief David Uhler and I welcome your questions at daryl.brown@sbrfa.org or david.uhler@sbrfa.org, or by phone at 360-268-9832. Thank you for considering our request.

Beach Fires, Dunes, and Fireworks Safety



South Beach Regional Fire Authority responds to fires each summer caused by fireworks or beach campfires that spread into nearby dunes. Dry dune grass can ignite quickly, especially in coastal winds.

Fireworks are illegal within the City of Westport, including beaches that front the city and areas in or near Washington State Parks. They may only be used on the beach between West Bonge Ave. and Cranberry Beach Rd. during the allowed discharge period.

If you are celebrating on the beach:

- Stay at least **100 feet away** from dunes and grass
- Keep fires and fireworks in **open sand areas**
- Have **water nearby** to extinguish flames
- Fully cool and **remove debris** before leaving

Enjoy Water Safely This Summer

The South Beach area offers many ways to enjoy the water during the summer months. But changing conditions along the coast can also create serious safety risks.

South Beach Regional Fire Authority regularly responds to water rescue calls in the area. Cold water temperatures, strong waves, and powerful rip currents can quickly put swimmers and beach visitors in danger.

Rip currents are narrow, fast-moving channels of water that flow away from shore. If caught in a rip current, the most important thing to remember is don't fight the current. Instead, try to stay calm, float, and swim parallel to the shoreline until you are out of the current, then head back toward the beach.

Wearing a life jacket is one of the easiest ways to improve water safety, especially for children, boaters, and anyone swimming in unfamiliar waters. Free life jackets are available for public use at the Westport Marina, making it easy for families and visitors to borrow one for the day. A few simple precautions can help ensure everyone enjoys the coast safely.

Before heading out on the water, always check local conditions, swim with others when possible, and keep a close eye on children near the shoreline.



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A MORE CENTRAL LOCATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

South Beach Regional Fire Authority serves communities across a large coastal area, including Westport, Grayland, Ocosta, North Cove, Tokeland, and Shoalwater Bay. Because emergencies can happen anywhere in the district, station location plays an important role in how quickly firefighters and paramedics can reach people who need help.

The Englewood building that the fire authority is considering renovating sits closer to the geographic center of the district and near major roadways connecting several communities. From this location, emergency crews could respond in multiple directions across the service area.

Travel-time analysis conducted by the fire authority shows that crews could reach much of the district within about eight minutes under normal driving conditions from the Englewood site.

No single station location can reduce response times everywhere, but a more centrally located facility can help improve overall response coverage across the district.

If voters approve the proposed bond in August, the existing Englewood building would be renovated into a fire station designed to support modern fire and EMS operations.

