



Lights & Sirens

WINTER 2022



EMS Management Update from Nathan Butler

As healthcare organizations everywhere struggle with staffing shortages and COVID-19, it's a relief to be able to report that San Juan Island EMS is staffed, has a balanced budget, morale is good, and capital needs are up to date on a planned schedule.

We're excited about our volunteer EMT class starting January 2022, which has about ten students in it. The agency is also expanding our Community Paramedicine program. Paying off our building bond in 2021 opened funding previously spent on debt service to fund a fifth paramedic.

In November we hosted a push-in ceremony to celebrate the benefits the new ambulance will bring to the island. This new four-wheel-drive ambulance will make it easier to serve the public in the winter. The new ambulance replaces one of our older vehicles, which has been sold to Skagit Fire District No. 13, located near La Conner, WA.

Our mission is to be here for the public. Regular surveys show that we rank in the top five of

continued on page 4

Noticias sobre la gestión del SME de Nathan Butler

Mientras que las organizaciones de salud en todas partes luchan con la escasez de personal y COVID-19, es un alivio poder informar que el EMS de la Isla de San Juan tiene personal, tiene un presupuesto equilibrado, la moral es buena, y las necesidades de capital están al día en un calendario planificado.

Estamos entusiasmados con nuestra clase de EMT voluntario que comienza en enero de 2022, que tiene alrededor de diez personas en ella. La agencia también está ampliando nuestro programa de paramédicos de la comunidad. El pago de nuestro bono de construcción en 2021 abrió los fondos previamente gastados en el servicio de la deuda para financiar un quinto paramédico.

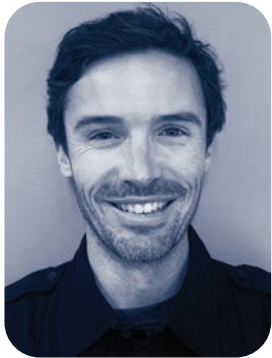
En noviembre organizamos una ceremonia de inauguración para celebrar los beneficios que la nueva ambulancia traerá a la isla. Esta nueva ambulancia con tracción a las cuatro ruedas facilitará el servicio al público en invierno. La nueva ambulancia sustituye a uno de los vehículos más antiguos de San Juan EMS, que se ha vendido al Distrito de Bomberos de Skagit n° 13, situado cerca de La Conner, WA.

continúa en la página 4





New Staff Introductions



RYDER CUDDINGTON

Ryder joined staff as a new Community and Paramedicine EMT in early November. He has been a volunteer with San Juan

Island EMS since 2019. Ryder is looking forward to working alongside Lainey Volk in his new role.



SARAH HILL

Sarah started working as an EMT at San Juan Island EMS in early October. She has extensive experience working in various

agencies throughout Western Washington and is excited for the opportunity to serve the residents of San Juan Island.



MICHELLE SAVOIE

Michelle is one of our new EMTs. When Michelle heard that there was a job opening at San Juan Island EMS, she was very excited to

be able to pursue a lifelong dream and utilize her skills for the benefit the San Juan Island Community.



**Public Hospital
District No. 1**
SAN JUAN COUNTY

Superintendent Nathan Butler on Long-term Care

In November 2021 voters approved a lid lift on the hospital district's primary levy. The revenue will be used to acquire the Village at the Harbor, the only assisted living facility on the island, expand the facility to include Medicaid beds and home care services, develop educational offerings, and support a stable workforce through providing benefits and retirement.

Our community's long-term care services have been eroded over many years of neglect and underfunding. Reversing that trend in our community is a large project that will take time. We sincerely appreciate the public's trust and are very excited about this compassionate and vital program. Updates can be found in the press, social media, and on our website at www.sjcphd.org/ltc. ■

Save a Life San Juan

San Juan Island EMS is starting a program called "Save a Life San Juan." This involves working to locate Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) in our community to ensure that they are working properly and working to deploy them where they are needed. Ensuring that AEDs are functional, charged, and have no service recalls is of vital importance.



If you have an AED and are willing to join the registry, please contact office@sanjuanems.org. An AED can restore the normal rhythm in victims of sudden cardiac arrest and saves lives. ■





Board Of Commissioners on the February 2022 EMS Levy Renewal

November 2022 was a watershed month. The election resulted in the hospital district keeping San Juan Island EMS rather than moving it to the Fire District. It also resulted in funding for long-term care and the acquisition of the Village at the Harbor. This meant that the District will be significantly increasing in size.

In a unanimous vote, the Board voted not to support another merger attempt of Fire and EMS. A survey of personnel showed a significant majority did not want to attempt the merger again, nor did management. Many partners reached out and expressed support for the Board's decision.

The District will be seeking voter approval for renewal of its existing EMS levy under the Hospital District on February 8, 2022. Our current levy exclusively supports EMS services and expires at the end of 2022. The ballot measure in February, if passed, will take effect January 2023.

San Juan Island EMS provides the only ambulance service within the District's boundaries, and the only Advanced Life Support (ALS) services. ALS service includes intubations, technical medical equipment like ventilators and ultrasounds, advanced medications such as pain management and sepsis treatment, and more.

We believe these services are valuable to our community, but we also believe in doing so at the lowest cost possible. When the EMS levy was passed six years ago the rate was \$0.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value. The District seeks approval to renew at \$0.45 per \$1,000 in assessed value. San Juan Island EMS does not charge any out-of-pocket costs for EMS service to taxpayers and residents.

You can find a detailed 6-year budget plan, narrative introduction to the budget, a guide to the District's goals, an FAQ, and more, at www.sjcpd.org/EMS. San Juan Island EMS is administered by San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1. ■

New EMT Class for 2022!



We are excited to kick off 2022 with the start of a new EMT Class. Ten students have passed their physical agility testing, and completed their prerequisites, and are ready to begin training in January. The students will spend over 200 hundred hours in class honing their critical thinking and practical assessment skills as they learn to provide Basic Life Support and save lives.



Each student will serve as a volunteer EMT once they graduate, and respond to their friends, neighbors, and the community at large. They will be issued a jump bag carrying oxygen, the tools to protect a patient's airway, lifesaving medications and trauma supplies, as well as an AED (automated external defibrillator). EMTs are located all over the island, so they can stabilize a patient while the ambulance and paramedic are enroute.



Updates from Outreach and Community Paramedicine



San Juan Island EMS founded Community Paramedicine nearly a decade ago. The main purpose of this program is to teach patients and families how to manage chronic conditions so they can live well and safely in their own space. Some folks are seen only a few times while others are seen on a regular basis as needed. Our goal is to help keep Island residents from needing 911!

County Health and Community Services Dept, PeaceHealth, Eventide, and Island Air in taking Covid vaccine booster to 20 shut-in patients. Helping patients have a feeling of greater security is always rewarding.

Director of Outreach and Community Paramedicine, Lainey Volk, would like to remind the public that we continue to teach CPR, First Aid, infectious disease prevention and wilderness courses. Watch our community calendar on the webpage (and Island Rec's as well) for upcoming classes. ■

Recently, we partnered with our

EMS Management Update

continued from page 1

comparable providers out of nearly 200 agencies that participate in the survey program.

EMS response times for 2021 at the time of writing are an average of 9:08 on all of San Juan Island and 6:09 for town. This is inclusive of about two minutes in "chute" time, or the amount of time it takes to get ready, do a safety check, and leave the station. We are incredibly proud of this legacy of service and look forward to continuing to serve you! ■

Noticias sobre la gestión del SME

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Nuestra misión es estar ahí para el público. Las encuestas regulares muestran que usted siente que estamos allí para usted: estamos en el top cinco de los proveedores comparables de casi 200 agencias que participan en el programa de encuestas, y séptimo en general.

Los tiempos de respuesta de los servicios médicos de urgencia para son actualmente de una media de 9:08 en la isla de San Juan y de 6:09 en la ciudad. Esto incluye alrededor de dos minutos para prepararse, hacer un control de seguridad y salir de la estación. Estamos increíblemente orgullosos de este legado de servicio y esperamos seguir sirviéndole. ■



San Juan Island
Emergency Medical Services

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