



FIREHOUSE NEWS

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www.bifd.org

BUILDING A FLEET FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

It may surprise you to learn that the Bainbridge Island Fire Department maintains a fleet of 30 vehicles, each playing an important role in keeping our community safe. Two full-time mechanic technicians, certified in fire apparatus maintenance, keep the fleet safe, reliable, and in service.

To plan for the future, BIFD recently updated its 15-year Fleet Replacement Plan, which was presented to the Board of Commissioners on July 22, 2026. The plan identifies when each vehicle may need replacement, establishes estimated costs using today's replacement values, and accounts for rising costs over time.

With fire apparatus costs increasing nationwide, thoughtful planning is more important than ever. The plan also looks for opportunities to maximize your tax dollars, including reducing the fleet when possible, refurbishing apparatus, and exploring other cost-saving strategies.



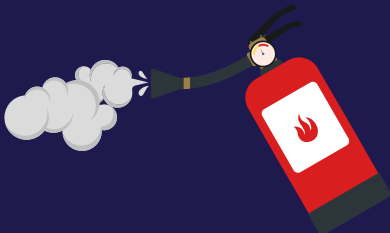
What Vehicles Make Up the BIFD Fleet

- 3 fire engines and 1 reserve
- 4 medic/aid units and 1 reserve
- 3 water tenders
- 2 wildland-fire engines
- 1 ladder truck
- 1 rescue vehicle
- Incident command, maintenance, and staff vehicles

We're proud of the fleet our community has entrusted us with and we're committed to maintaining the vehicles and equipment our crews rely on to serve Bainbridge Island.

COMMUNITY CLASSES

Did you know that BIFD offers classes to our community to better prepare for everyday emergencies? Learn more at bifd.org



Fire Extinguisher Training

CPR/AED Bystander Classes



Wildfire Risk Reduction Classes

WHAT'S IN YOUR GO BAG?

Being prepared for a disaster is everyone's responsibility—and it starts with personal and family preparedness.

A Go Bag is a simple way to make sure you have essential supplies ready if you need to leave your home quickly or shelter in place. Every member of your household should have their own bag with enough supplies to last at least two to three days.

Store Go Bags somewhere easy to grab, such as near an exit, under a bed, or in your vehicle.



What to include in your Go Bag:

- Water and a water purification system
- 3-day supply of ready-to-eat food
- Manual can opener
- Blanket
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Signal whistle
- At least a 7-day supply of medications
- Multi-purpose tool
- Important documents and cash
- Hygiene and sanitation supplies
- Sturdy shoes and a change of clothes
- Battery, solar, or hand-crank radio

Don't forget the unique needs of your household. Families with infants or children may want to include diapers, formula, medications, or activities. Pet owners should pack food, water, medicine, a leash, and other necessary pet gear.

A few minutes of preparation today can make a big difference when an emergency happens.



KNOW THE BASICS

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters, stoves, generators, and vehicles produce it.

- Common symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, and confusion, and are often mistaken for the flu. If symptoms improve after leaving your home or affect multiple people at once, CO may be the cause.
- Protect your family by installing and regularly testing CO alarms and having fuel-burning appliances inspected annually.
- If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

bifd.org/carbon-monoxide



SMOKE ALARM SAFETY

Smoke alarms save lives. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms provide early warning, giving you the time you need to escape safely.

- Test your smoke alarms monthly using the test button.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed to help slow smoke, heat, and fire.
- Get outside and stay outside when an alarm sounds.
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years.

bifd.org/smoke-alarms



PRESCRIBED BURN SUCCESS AT BLOEDEL RESERVE

On August 17, 2026, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department, in partnership with the Bloedel Reserve, successfully completed a prescribed training fire at Bloedel Reserve's Buxton Meadow. This 0.9-acre burn marks the third successful year of this project, and the operation was completed safely, without incident or injury.

Prescribed fires require a strict, legally authorized written prescription that establishes weather, safety, and environmental parameters before ignition. These carefully planned operations provide an incredible opportunity for Bainbridge Island Fire Department and partner agencies to strengthen valuable wildland firefighting skills that help protect our island residents and communities throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Benefits of this project:

- Bloedel Reserve staff training
- Ecological management of the meadow
- Reduction of fuel loads
- Training for BIFD and other local fire agencies

This project is a great example of what can be accomplished through strong partnerships, thoughtful planning, and shared commitment to wildfire preparedness and healthy landscapes.

DOWNED POWER LINES: STAY BACK, STAY SAFE

Fall and winter bring strong winds, heavy rain, and storms to Bainbridge Island—and sometimes, those storms bring trees and power lines down with them. While our trees are part of what makes the Island such a beautiful place to live, they can also create serious hazards when they come into contact with utility lines.

If you see a downed power line, assume it is live and dangerous. Stay as far away as possible and call 911. Then return to a safe location, such as your home. Do not wait near the downed line.

Please remember these important safety rules:

- Assume every downed power line is energized.
- Never touch a downed power line or anything in contact with it.
- Never drive over a downed power line.
- Do not drive under trees that are leaning on or tangled with power lines.
- If a person or pet comes into contact with a power line, stay away and call 911 immediately.



Downed utility wires can create stressful and dangerous conditions for both the public and emergency responders. The safest thing you can do is keep your distance and let trained professionals handle the hazard.

As we head into fall and winter, take a few minutes to prepare for the possibility of a power outage. Keep flashlights and extra batteries readily available, have backup charging options for your phones, and make sure your household knows what to do if the power goes out.

Stay safe, stay back, and always treat downed power lines as live.



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BIFD TRAINS FOR THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Every shift, Bainbridge Island Fire Department firefighters train to stay ready for the moments when our community needs them most. Washington State requires 40 hours of fire-specific training each quarter, and the average BIFD member often completes 60-80 hours. Training includes hands-on skills such as ladder operations, hose deployment, search techniques, and emergency response.

Through the Kitsap County Fire Training Consortium (KCFTC), BIFD firefighters also participate in live-fire exercises, specialty courses, leadership development, and professional certifications. BIFD also cross-trains with neighboring fire districts, strengthening our ability to support one another during emergencies. Ongoing EMS training is coordinated through Kitsap County EMS and BIFD's Medical Services Officer.

BIFD crew have completed more than **6,263 hours** of training in 2026, including hands-on training for:

- Technical rescue
- Wildland firefighting
- Live fire
- Water rescue
- Vehicle extrication
- Peer support
- EMS
- And more!

Training is a continuous part of our work, beginning long before the alarm sounds. Through preparation, practice, and a commitment to being ready for the moments that matter most to the community we serve.

