



# NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE & RESCUE

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The North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Board of Commissioners announced that they have been awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant, totaling \$594,762, will be awarded over a 4-year period and will aid in volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. The board says the grant will be used to fund several categories including head-to-toe Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for new recruits, leadership/career training, various new member costs like physicals and textbooks, and a marketing program for recruitment.

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue's planned vision is to increase emergency services to the citizens of North Whidbey. This grant allows us to add more volunteer firefighters over the next four years.

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is 55 square miles with 7 stations. The district covers the area from just south of Libby Rd. to the Deception Pass Bridge, excluding the city of Oak Harbor and NAS Whidbey Island.

According to FEMA, the SAFER grants were created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Learn more about the SAFER grant at [www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer](http://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer).