



# CAMANO ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE

*NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS*

Contact: Levon Yengoyan – Assistant Chief  
Office: 360-387-1512  
Cell: 425-508-0136  
Email: [lyengoyan@camanofire.com](mailto:lyengoyan@camanofire.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
5 April 2010

## **CIFR Auxiliaries Raise Funds To Protect Local Community**

### **Automated External Defibrillators Will Be Available In Fire Department Community Rooms**

Thanks to the generous donations of local Fire Department Auxiliaries, Island residents attending meetings or functions at their local Fire Station will have access to potentially life saving technology. New, automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, have been purchased by the Fire Department and several of the local Ladies Auxiliaries. The AEDs have been placed in public meeting rooms of local fire stations as well as the Administration office. These devices provide a much needed early intervention that can be a critical component in saving lives.

“Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States” advises Deputy Chief and Medical Services Administrator Darin Reid. “Successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest victim relies on prompt cardio pulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation.” Studies show that survivability rates can be greatly improved if victims are treated immediately with defibrillation, an electrical shock that can return the heart to a more normal rhythm. The increasingly widespread distribution of these devices in populated locations such as conference rooms, shopping centers, airports, and government buildings has resulted in saving innumerable lives. Chief Reid also stresses that “The more AEDs we can place in areas where the public congregates, the more chances we have of saving lives.”

While AEDs are currently available for use at several Island locations, including the Elger Bay and Utsalady Grade Schools, Yacht Club, Senior Center, and Camano Chapel, their installation in Fire Station community rooms was a logical choice. In order to accomplish this, Camano Island Fire and Rescue looked to the support of their Ladies Auxiliaries. Three auxiliaries exist on Camano Island; the Mabana Flames, Madrona Sirens, and the Terry’s Corner Fire Jets. “The Auxiliaries are an integral piece of our operations on Camano Island” said Assistant Chief Levon Yengoyan. “Not only do they provide additional equipment that is above and beyond our budget, but their support of our personnel is vital.”

In addition to purchasing AEDs for the Mabana, Madrona, and Terry’s Corner stations, each Auxiliary also received training in their use. However, any individual presented with someone having a cardiac emergency and access to an AED should not hesitate to put it to use. “Automated External Defibrillators are designed to be used by anyone regardless of training” said Reid. Instructions are intuitive and easy to follow and the units are designed to shock only when presented with an appropriate heart rhythm. “You do not need to worry about hurting someone with an AED. They will not fire unless it is absolutely necessary, and you could very likely save their life” Reid concluded.

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For more information about Camano Island Fire and Rescue, or to schedule a meeting with Fire Chief Mike Ganz, please call the administration office at 360-387-1512.



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Members of the Madrona Sirens Ladies Auxiliary learn how to use an AED from Greg Baker of Performance CPR

(Pictured from Left to Right: Nairy Finn, Margaret LaPore, Betty Souder, Greg Baker, Peggy Black, Gert Wyse)