



Camano Island Fire and Rescue
811 N. Sunrise Blvd.
Camano Island, WA 98282

In An Emergency
Dial 9-1-1

Working together to safely protect our community's lives and property

Spring 2014

“Close the Door Behind You!” Simple act saves lives

Heat. Fuel. Oxygen. They are the basic needs of a fire. Camano Island Fire and Rescue wants area residents to know how important it is to “Close the Door Behind You.” It may save a life.

“One of the most proactive things you can do in a fire event is to close the door,” said Captain Jason Allen. “Get out and stay out is first and foremost. But closing the door as you leave can seriously limit the spread of that fire and possibly save lives.”

CIFR Assistant Chief Levon Yengoyan noted that closing the front door as a resident leaves a burning building, or an apartment door can save the lives of neighboring residents. In addition, it considerably decreases the fire’s growth rate, making it safer for firefighters who come to extinguish a fire.

“There is a lot of data that demonstrates the value of closing the door behind you,” said Yengoyan.

He also said that parents should close the door to their children’s and their own bedrooms, reducing the speed at which a fire can spread to their rooms. By compartmentalizing the home, and closing the doors between sleeping areas and floors, you essentially

close the dampers on the stove and force the fire to slow its growth. This gives you more time to react and escape the hot smoke and gases, and it gives firefighters a chance to extinguish a much smaller fire.

“A fire needs oxygen and fuel. The simple act of closing a door can deprive fire of what it needs, and save property and life.”

Yengoyan referenced studies that followed the 2011 death of a Maryland Firefighter, pointing to photographs that showed a gutted apartment where the door was left open, and a second apartment in the same building left intact after the same fire.

“The message is clear,” said Yengoyan. “A fire needs oxygen and fuel. The simple act of closing a door can deprive fire of what it needs, and save property and life. We don’t want to see any lives lost in preventable tragedies.”



Above, images of the fire scene where a firefighter in Maryland lost his life. The two images show the difference in smoke and fire damage to a room where the door was left open (first image) and closed. These apartments were side by side. Photo Sourced from ATF FRL



IN OUR SCHOOLS

Firefighters Read Across America

Read Across America in early March came with a special treat for students at Utsalady Elementary. Firefighters and a fire engine showed up.

Students in Mrs. Musgraves Kindergarten class at Utsalady were treated to firefighters Ryan White, Vern Matlick, Kevin Moberg, Ryan Shaughnessy, Chad Mccoy, Brandi Mauck and Bobby Guadamuz, who read stories to the students. Afterward, they toured the fire engine.

“The day was a real treat for our firefighters, who enjoy visiting with children. Education and literacy are so important to our community, that encouraging reading is a particular joy,” said CIFR Captain Ryan Shaughnessy.

Read Across America Day is annually held on March 2. This nation-

wide observance coincides with the birthday of Dr Seuss, who is known for writing children’s books. The event was started by the National Education Association.

Afternoon of Art

CIFR Firefighter Ryan White worked with students at Utsalady Elementary during Afternoon of Art. CIFR firefighters participated in the program at our local school.

Breakfast for Oso firefighters

Firefighters from Camano Island Fire and Rescue hosted a pancake breakfast to raise funds for Oso mudslide relief. The event, Saturday, April 12 at the Vista/Madrona Fire Station, raised over \$1,900.

This “Firefighters Helping Firefighters” event was headed up by Battalion Chief Keith Pappas. It was designed to help other fire districts providing rescue to the Oso mudslide victims. All donated

proceeds will be given to the Oso and Darrington Firefighters.

A ride for the birthday boy

Carver Carrigan has been around firefighters before. His father is one. But that doesn’t lessen the thrill of getting to ride a fire engine to school!

The birthday boy won the prize at an event earlier at Elger Bay Elementary. He received a tour of the engine and ride in the officers seat to his school.

His 9 and 10 year old brothers rode in the back seat with Firefighter David Winship. Upon arrival at school, the firefighters accompanied all three brothers to their classrooms. The firetruck ride was organized by Volunteer Firefighter Dennis Wischmeier.