

July 1, 2022

Hello Decatur Neighbors-

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY! We hope you have an enjoyable and safe Holiday weekend!

Thank you for your past support and participation in wildland fire training and preparedness over the past 3 years. Big thank you to the new folks who attended training June 18th. Kudos to the nearly 70 Islander who've attended Wildland Firefighting Basics Training. Also a special thanks to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the SJC interagency Wildland Response Team, SJC Sheriff, and SJC Dispatch who participated in DEB's latest training on June 18, 2022.

We would like to share with you a significant development that promises to be our next stride forward in fire preparedness. We hope you will continue to be a champion of these efforts for our island community.

DEB : (Decatur Emergency Brigade) 501(c)3

We are excited to announce that the Decatur Emergency Brigade (DEB) has been formed as a registered Washington State non-profit organization. The board will represent wide geographic, social, economic, and historical connections to the island and will be responsible for the growth and evolution of DEB to benefit the entire island. We anticipate DEB being awarded Federal non-profit 501(c)3 status later this year.

WHAT DEB HAS DONE AND IS DOING:

- Provided professional wildland training for nearly 70 island first responders to date.
- Implementing [lamResounding.com](https://www.lamResounding.com) application for our first responders in conjunction with SJC sheriff dispatch to provide situational awareness to responders and partner agencies.
- Securing insurance policies for the brigade covering: volunteers, equipment, commandeered resources, and the organization.
- Incorporated the Decatur Emergency Brigade as a local, state, and federally recognized organization with the maximum efficacy and benefits of an emergency response organization available.
- Coordinating closely with the WA Department of Natural Resources and their jurisdiction over all rural unincorporated wildland areas, including the entirety of the San Juan Islands.

- Participating in training with the San Juan County Interagency Wildland Response Team and cultivating our nearest resources on Lopez Island.
- Taking ownership of the four (4) wildland response trucks, maintaining the equipment inventory, and planning strategic equipment upgrades.
- Developing a board of directors including up to 9 representatives of the island's community and demographic diversity.
- Working with island HOAs to coordinate equipment resources, planned responses, membership involvement, and financial support.
- Hosting on island vaccination clinic with the SJC Health Department.

DEB WANTS YOU TO:

- **Call 911 in the event of an emergency from any phone.** This connects you to San Juan County Dispatch who is connected to us and all our neighboring aid and resources.
- **Know your official street address.** Know, Post, and Use your official San Juan County street address. This is imperative for a quick and unified response by islanders and off -island teams. We can help you identify your address if you do not know it.
- **Get involved.** Watch for communications from DEB. Volunteer, donate, participate, and prepare with us. We are all volunteers, neighbors, and the first helping hands that will be available for each other.

DEB NEEDS YOU TO:

DONATE TO DEB

Decatur Emergency Brigade

Our goal is to raise \$10k for organizational startup costs, insurance, training, and equipment upgrades for 2022.

ALL DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

PayPal / Credit Card / Checks accepted

**DEB (Decatur Emergency Brigade) is currently in the process of gaining 501(c)(3) status. We are confident that DEB will receive a favorable determination of its 501(c)(3) tax deductible status from the IRS. Per IRS regulations, our tax deductible status will be*

granted retroactively to the date of the organization's filing of proper Articles of Incorporation, which is April 26, 2022.

TO DONATE ONLINE:

- Donate **online** by clicking [here](#).
- Or visit www.deb.team
- Or Scan the QR Code below from your smartphone.

TO DONATE BY CHECK:

- Please make payable to: DEB
- Deliver to Andy, Randy, Mark or Alan
- Or send to: DEB % Mark Wall 12 Decatur Island, Anacortes, WA 98221- 9402

Thank you for your continued support. Our success is found in the community and volunteerism. Without both, we have no base from which to achieve our mission.

To learn more, visit DEB's website at www.deb.team

Best,
Alan Mizuta
Randy Stricker
Mark Wall
Andy Wood

