



Help Us Help Others - Fill the Boots for Food 2025

District 69 Fire Departments

November 15 and 16

Fire departments in District 69 are gearing up to fill their boots for food! On the weekend of November 15 and November 16, firefighters will be located throughout the Oceanside region collecting cash donations for the Salvation Army food bank. Some departments will also accept donations at their firehalls that weekend. Parkville Fire will accept new unwrapped toys for the Society of Organized Services. Please check your local fire department's website for collection details.

Information on collection by District 69 departments is provided here; however, residents should confirm arrangements with their local department. The first food drive was held in 1997 and now includes eight departments in District 69: Bow Horn Bay Fire Department, Coombs Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department, Deep Bay Fire and Rescue, Errington Volunteer Fire Department, Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department, Parkville Volunteer Fire Department and Qualicum Beach Fire Department. Each year, Oceanside residents generously contribute and firefighters in District 69 look forward to another successful year.

Bow Horn Bay Fire Department

The Bow Horn Bay Fire Department will accept donations at the Bow Horn Bay firehall (220 Lions Way, Qualicum Beach) on Saturday, November 15 from 10 am to 4 pm and at Tomm's Food Village, 6990 Island Highway West, Bowser.

Contact: Fire Chief Mark Taylor at 250 757-9433 or bhbfire@shaw.ca

Visit: bowhornbayvfd.ca

Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Coombs Hilliers Fire Department will collect door-to-door in the Whiskey Creek area on November 15 and the Virginia Estates area on November 16. Times are 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm both days. Fire Station #2 at 3241 Alberni Highway will be open to accept donations between 9 am to 4 pm.

Contact: Community Fire Chief Ron Schildroth at 250 752-2144 or rschildroth@rdn.bc.ca

Visit: rdn.bc.ca/coombs-hilliers-fire

Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department

Will be accepting cash and nonperishables for the week of November 17-21, from 8 am to 4 pm at Station 61 located at 230 Hobbs Road Qualicum Beach. Direct questions to 250 752-5434, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm or email dashwoodvfd@gmail.com

Contact: Fire Chief Nick Acciavatti at 250 752-5434; firechief@dashwoodvfd.com

Visit: dashwoodvfd.com

Deep Bay Fire Department

On Saturday, November 15 between 11 am and 1 pm, the Deep Bay Fire Department will accept food and cash donations at the Deep Bay firehall (5031 Mountainview Road, just off Gainsberg).

Contact: Stuart McLean at 250 240-2263, stuart.mclean@rdn.bc.ca and Ian Braconnier at 780 201-8867, ian_braconnier@hotmail.com

Visit: dbid.ca/fire-department

Errington Fire Department

Errington Fire Station # 1 will collect cash, food and toy donations at the Co-op Gas Bar at the corner of Church Road and Alberni Highway (1401 Alberni Highway, Errington) on Saturday, November 15 between 11 am and 3 pm.

Contact: Chief Steve Ternes at 250 248-5601 or chief@evfd.ca

Visit: evfd.ca

Nanoose Bay Fire Department

On Saturday, November 15 from 10 am to 2 pm, Nanoose firefighters and NCS volunteers will be at two locations, Springford Farms on Northwest Bay Road, and Quality Foods at the Red Gap Center to collect cash and grocery gift card donations. Donations will go to Nanoose Community Services, a local charity assisting individuals and families challenged by poverty and food accessibility. Please note, cash and gift card donations only at these locations.

Contact: Chief Leo Groenewegen at 250 468-7141 or lgroenewegen@rdn.bc.ca

Visit: rdn.bc.ca/nanoose-bay-fire-department

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

Parksville firefighters will collect cash donations for the Salvation Army food bank at locations throughout Parksville on November 15 (9 am to 5 pm) and November 16 (10 am to 3 pm) – Canadian Tire at Wembley Mall Corfield Plaza (Thrifty Foods), and Quality Foods. Donations of new unwrapped toys will also be accepted for the Society of Organized Services.

Contact: Senior Firefighter Liam Robinson at 250 248-3242 or firedept@parksville.ca

Visit: parksvillefirerescue.ca

Qualicum Beach Fire Department

On November 15 and 16 from 10 am to 2 pm, Qualicum Beach firefighters will accept cash donations at the firehall (130 Rupert Road East), outside Qualicum Foods (705 Memorial Avenue) and the Qualicum Beach BC Liquor Store (706 Primrose Street).

Contact: Deputy Fire Chief Friso McKenzie at 250 752-6232 or fmckenzie@qualicumbeach.com

Visit: qbfirerescue.com

Salvation Army and Society of Organized Services

Donations are extremely important to the Salvation Army food bank and Society of Organized Services to provide for the less fortunate in our community. Donations may also be made as follows:

- Salvation Army food bank donations are accepted at 886 Wembley Road - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 am to 4 pm (closed noon to 1 pm); Wednesday and Friday, 9 am to noon.
- Society of Organized Services (SOS) is gratefully accepting donations for its Caring for Community at Christmas program. The program provides special gifts for local children and youth, and grocery store gift cards are provided to families, adults and seniors so they may choose food meaningful to them over the holidays. Financial donations can be made online at sosd69.com, in person or by phone (250 248-2093), Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4.30 pm. (closed noon to 1 pm). New, unwrapped gifts may be dropped off during the same hours at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville (245 Hirst Avenue West).

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For information and media, contact:

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