

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 27, 2021

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San Juan Island Fire and Rescue Opens Emergency Cooling Center

San Juan Island Fire and Rescue (SJIF&R) announced the opening of a staffed, emergency cooling center for <u>anyone</u> needing relief from the unprecedented heat wave which has enveloped the San Juan Islands and the entire Pacific Northwest.

The SJIF&R air-conditioned cooling center will be available to <u>anyone</u> needing heat relief, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at Fire Station #31, located at 1011 Mullis Street in Friday Harbor. Fire Station #31 is located adjacent to the Friday Harbor airport and is located between Argyle Avenue and Spring Street. The cooling center is in a large, open conference room

Due to the heat emergency, Governor Jay Inslee has lifted COVID-19 capacity restrictions for cooling centers run by governments and nonprofit organizations. The San Juan County Health Officer Order requiring the wearing of masks by customers indoors in businesses and other public spaces will end on June 27th, 2021.

We ask that anyone coming to the center be aware of social distancing to maintain safety. We urge anyone who is NOT vaccinated to wear a mask at all times to protect yourself from infection. Please only park in designated spots and please do not block driveways for access by our emergency vehicles.

We will evaluate the weather moving forward and announce any changes to operating hours and the need for a cooling center for Monday. We are all in this together. Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve you.

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The San Juan Island Fire & Rescue was established on October 6, 1958. Fire District #3 covers all of San Juan Island, including Brown; Henry; Johns; Pearl; Spieden and Stuart Islands. For more information, please visit http://www.sjifire.org/