Help Us Help Others - Fill the Boots for Food 2026
District 69 Fire Departments
Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15

Fire departments in District 69 are gearing up to fill their boots for food! On the weekend of November 14 and November 15, 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. Parksville 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, Parksville 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 14 from 10 am to 3 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 14 and the Virginia Estates area on November 15. 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 until 2 pm, both days.

Contact*:* Community Fire Chief Enzo Calla at 250 752-2144 or ecalla@rdn.bc.ca
Visit: rdn.bc.ca/coombs-hilliers-fire

Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department
Will be accepting cash donations and non-perishable food items will be accepted November 9 to 14 from 8 am to 4 pm at Station 61 (230 Hobbs Road) and November 15 from 8:30 am to 4 pm at Station 62 (1800 Galvin Place). For more information, please contact 250-752-5434 Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm, 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 14 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 14 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 14 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: Deputy Chief Denis Holme at 250 468-7141 or dholme@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 14 (8 am to 4 pm) and November 15 (9 am to 3 pm) – Canadian Tire, BC Liquor Store, Save On Foods (Saturday only) at Wembley Mall, Thrifty Foods at Corfield Plaza, Quality Foods, and Tim Hortons. 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 fire@parksville.ca
Visit: parksvillefirerescue.ca

Qualicum Beach Fire Department

On November 14 and 15 from 10 am to 5 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, 8:30 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).

###

For information and media, contact:

Matt Bell, Manager of Communications
250 954-3073; communications@parksville.ca