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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 29, 2012  
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### **Key Peninsula Fire Department schedules Open House for June 9<sup>th</sup>** *Burn demonstration highlights response problems for department*

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is holding its annual Open House on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Key Center Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Highway North (KPN), in Lakebay. The event is open to the public throughout the fire district's service territory.

This year, the Board of Fire Commissioners will serve up a pancake breakfast to thank the community for its support. The breakfast is free, but donations will be accepted. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to see the fire engines, try on bunker gear and have their photos taken with local fire fighters.

The fire department also will conduct a burn demonstration to show the community the time it takes for it to respond to emergencies. Fire fighters will be reenacting a live 911 call for a car fire from several months ago. The demonstrations will be held in a controlled environment behind the fire station at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Fire Chief Tom Lique says that the demonstration is particularly important considering the department's recent response issues. Key Peninsula Fire Department is struggling to provide an adequate emergency response to fires because of staffing shortages. Three fires in as many weeks have shown response times well in excess of safety standards established by the National Fire Protection Association.

"The burn demonstration will show how we struggle to provide an adequate emergency response," said Chief Lique. "Our average response time is almost double what it should be. We need to make the community aware of what we are up against."

Fire Commissioner Frank Grubaugh says that he hopes the community will take a moment to stop by. "There is a whole new Board of Fire Commissioners," he said. "We represent the community, and want you to know that we are accessible and available to hear what's on your mind."

The Key Peninsula Fire Department serves 17,000 people over 65 square miles. The Board of Fire Commissioners is considering asking voters to approve a levy on the November election ballot to fund eight full-time fire fighter positions. The levy would cost the owner of a \$225,000 home an additional \$7.70 per month. Better response times are the key to saving lives and property, as well as reducing homeowner insurance premiums, medical and ambulance fees. For more information, visit [www.keypeninsulafire.org](http://www.keypeninsulafire.org).

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