



Fireline

Dedicated to the Community We Serve

A Publication of King County Fire Protection District #40

Winter 2013

Fireline Chatter

February is Heart Month

During the month of February, firefighters representing District 40 are participating in Heart Month, a community outreach campaign designed to increase public awareness about heart health and cardiovascular conditions. Firefighters provide free preventative screenings to the public that include blood pressure and blood sugar checks. For more information visit fd40.com.

Station #42 Demolished

In November 2012, Fire Station 42's main building was demolished and an in-ground fuel tank was removed. The main building was deteriorating and could not be easily repaired. Removing the building and the fuel tank will enhance the value of the property.

FD40 New Website Online

Fire District 40 has a new website! Check it out at fd40.com.

In This Issue...

- Station 17 Remodel
- Letter From The Chief
- FD40: Year In Review
- Get To Know Your Firefighters
- Generator Safety Tips
- Take Winter By Storm
- Be Prepared For Winter Driving
- Benefits of Benefit Service Charge

Station 17 Remodel Underway



Renton Fire & Emergency Services Deputy Chief Erik Wallgren and City of Renton Facilities Director Peter Renner meet with architects and contractors working on the current remodel of Fire Station 17.

If you drive past the Fairwood Fire Station 17 along Petrovitsky any time soon, the quiet unassuming exterior shrouds the complete overhaul and reconstruction taking place within.

Fire Station 17, constructed in 1970, has for years been out of compliance with new safety and seismic standards, and doesn't meet current operational service requirements.

When the station reopens in April 2013, the building will have the latest technology to make the building safe and functional, and be outfitted with all the necessary equipment firefighters need to respond to emergencies within the community.

The remodel project will simplify the general layout of the station, repair previous seismic damage and retrofit the building to current seismic standards, replace the HVAC systems with energy-efficient equipment, provide a code-compliant fire suppression system, provide gender-neutral dorm rooms and bathroom facilities, and replace worn cabinetry, flooring and finishes.

The only operational change is that the aid unit will be responding from Station #13 located on 108th Ave SE during the construction. The engine company will request the aid unit for those patients requiring transport to

See **STATION REMODEL**, Page 6



Fire District 40 Commissioners are elected officials who represent the concerns and interests of you, the citizens of the community.

The Commissioners oversee finances, equipment, capital improvements, and general fire department operations.

The Commissioners meet at 5 p.m. on the second and last Thursday of each month at Station 13, located at 18002 108th Ave SE.

The Commissioners are always interested in what you have to say, so please feel free to attend the meetings to learn more about what is going on in your fire department. There is an opportunity at the end of the meeting to ask questions or share your ideas and concerns. If you are unable to attend, feel free to e-mail or write to us.

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for more information.

A Note From Chief Peterson

Dear Citizens of King County Fire District 40, As I reflect over the last year, the department accomplished many goals that help makes this a wonderful community to live in. In heart month alone, not only did we meet our goal, but far exceeded it. As an added bonus, we had fun in the process meeting and interacting with our residents.



One of the most exciting projects that were started in 2012 is the remodel of Fire Station 17. Built in 1970, the building has had a few upgrades but nothing this major. When completed, the citizens of the community will enjoy a state-of-the-art facility offering a more efficient floor plan at a fraction of the cost of a new

facility. It will be staffed with both an Engine Company and an Aid Unit.

We plan to have a dedication ceremony and open house when the project is completed this spring.

As I look forward to 2013, I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. We continue to offer CPR classes and look forward to meeting you again during February Heart Month. I would like to thank you in advance for supporting us throughout the year so that we can better serve you. I wish you prosperous and safe New Year.

Sincerely,

Chief Mark Peterson
 Fire District 40/Renton Fire Dept.
 Emergency Services Administrator

Fire District 40: 2012 In Review

In 2012 Fire District 40 Board of Commissioners chose to improve the Fire District's properties and assets and also improve healthcare outreach to Fire District 40 residents.

Fire District 40 provided free monthly CPR classes to the community in 2012, and more than 225 of our citizens completed the CPR course.

During Heart Month in February, 2012, Fire District 40 firefighters provided free blood pressure screenings and blood sugar checks to 1,567 Fairwood residents at local supermarkets, the Fairwood Library and local schools. They also participated in the Fairwood Library Annual Health Fair, providing free health screenings.

In October 2012, we began a much needed remodel of Fire Station 17. The fire station was originally built in 1970 and had only minor

improvements made since then. Improvements include the building being seismically retrofitted to withstand earth quakes, brought up to current building codes, replacing aging bay doors and openers, and rooms are being remodeled to meet our current needs. Completion is planned for April 2013.

In November 2012, Fire Station 42's main building was demolished and an in-ground fuel tank was removed. The main building was deteriorating and could not be easily repaired. Removing the building and the fuel tank will enhance the value of the property.

Fire District 40 joined with Renton Fire & Emergency Services to provide a brush truck for the community. Between August and October 2012, the brush truck was used in seven large-scale incidents where a fire truck was not able to reach the fire.

Get To Know Your Firefighters: Steven Trujillo

Firefighter Steven Trujillo

How long have you been in fire services and where did you begin your career?

I started as a volunteer firefighter in Pierce County in September of 2008 and tested tirelessly throughout the state in an attempt to get hired as a career firefighter. Fortunately, I was hired by Renton Fire & Emergency Services in July of 2011.

What did you do prior to joining fire services?

Prior to joining the fire service I attended Washington State University. I worked various summer jobs that included being a laborer at a construction company and a sales associate at Sears. After graduating from college, I worked for a landscaping company while attending a volunteer fire academy.

What made you select this career field?

From a young age I had a lot of exposure to the fire service. My uncle is a retired Captain from the Alameda County Fire Department and my older



brother is a firefighter with the City of Yakima. I continually saw the positive impact they had on the community they served. It is a pleasure to come to work each day because of the camaraderie of the firefighters I work with and our likeminded desire to help those in the community.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare time I enjoy being active which includes working out, playing sports, or chasing after our new puppy.

Education:

I graduated from Washington State University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts and a Double Major.

Where are you from originally?

I was born in the Bay Area of California and moved to Graham, Washington when I was 2 years old with my parents and older brother.

Spouse/Significant Other/Children/Pets:

I married my wife, Anne, in 2009 after we dated throughout college. We just welcomed our first puppy to our home, a 15 week old Black Lab named Kira.

Alternative Heat Sources Can Increase Fire Risk

Home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season due in part to an increase in cooking and heating fires. Winter storms that can interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative electricity sources such as portable generators also contribute to the increased risk of fire in winter. Winter fires can be prevented! The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

Portable Generators

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. There are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from improper use of portable generators.

To Avoid Carbon Monoxide Hazards:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents.
- NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home, following

manufacturer's instructions.

- Test CO alarms often and replace batteries when needed.

To Avoid Electrical Hazards:

- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If necessary to connect generator to house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Or, your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch.

To Avoid Fire Hazards:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

TAKE WINTER

Are You Ready For Winter Weather?

Winter storms are something we can count on happening every year here in Western Washington. Whether they create a minor inconvenience or result in days without power, we all need to be ready to “take winter by storm.” The steps we take today to plan for floods, windstorms and freezing temperatures also prepare us for more serious emergencies, such as earthquakes and man-made disasters.

Disaster planning consists of three simple steps:

1. Make A Plan

Everyone, including kids, should have a plan for how they will communicate during an emergency and where they will meet family members if separated.

- Establish an out-of-area contact. This should be someone out of state who each family member can contact to communicate his or her well-being.
- In emergencies, texting will often work, even if phone calls can't go through.
- If cell towers are down, land lines may work. Longdistance calls may go through even if local calls don't.
- Establish a meeting place near your home where family members will go if it's not safe to stay in your home.

2. Build A Kit

Having basic supplies on hand not only will keep you alive, but also will make you more comfortable during the first few days of a disaster. Many of the items you'll need are already in your home.

Set aside a minimum three-day supply of these items: nonperishable, ready-to-eat food; drinkable water (1 gallon per person per day); medications and personal hygiene items.

You'll also want to pack: radio (battery-powered or hand-crank style); flashlight; extra batteries; sturdy shoes and warm clothing; first-aid kit; blanket; whistle; toys and

comfort items for kids and pets.

Putting these items together in one place will ensure that you will have what you need, quickly. You should have emergency kits for your home, vehicle, work and school—anywhere you spend long periods of time. A complete checklist can be downloaded at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

3. Get Involved

Resilient communities don't just happen; they are built by individuals working together and staying informed.

- Get to know your neighbors. A trusted friend next door can keep an eye on your property and take care of your kids or pets if an emergency keeps you from getting home.
- Volunteer to serve on your local Community Emergency Response Team or the American Red Cross. Volunteers receive training and resources to help address immediate needs until emergency personnel are able to respond.
- Learn CPR and basic first aid—it can make the difference between life and death for someone close to you.
- Attend local disaster preparedness fairs to learn about local services and resources from emergency responders and disaster planning experts.

- Register for your city's or county's automated emergency alert system.

Being prepared for winter emergencies and other disasters not only protects people and property, but also provides peace of mind. We can't stop disasters from happening, but we can prepare to survive them. Take steps today to plan for how you will weather this winter storm season.

— Lynne Miller, King County Office of Emergency Management.

WINTER WEATHER SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST:

- Food: At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food per person.
- Drinkable Water: 1 gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation.
- Medication and personal hygiene items.
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Sturdy shoes and warm clothing
- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Whistle to signal for help
- Toys and comfort items for kids and pets

BY STORM



Be Prepared For Winter Weather Driving

Winter Vehicle Maintenance

Double-check weather forecasts and traffic reports during winter weather storms. These guidelines can help you get prepared prior to your travels.

- Before the weather turns bad, make sure your vehicle is properly serviced and maintained. Ensure the electrical systems, brakes, batteries, lights, windshield wipers, antifreeze and heating and cooling systems are in good shape.
- Check your tires—they are very important. Keep tires properly inflated and make sure they have adequate tread. Plan ahead—tire dealers are busiest before and during winter storms.
- Use the Take Winter By Storm Checklist to prepare a vehicle emergency kit, including a radio, flashlight, extra

batteries, a first-aid kit, emergency contact information, water, and non-perishable food. You can find a detailed list at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

- Double-check your vehicle for winter weather travel gear like extra warm clothing, a blanket, a small shovel, sand or non-clumping litter, emergency flares, deice materials, tire chains, and an ice scraper.
- As the temperature drops, keep your gas tank at least half full; the extra gas helps reduce condensation that can plug your fuel line with ice and stall your engine in cooler weather.
- Make sure your vehicle is completely up to date on regular scheduled maintenance to avoid costly repairs, reduce CO2 emissions, and maintain optimum fuel economy.
- Carry tire chains and double check they are a proper fit for your vehicle's tires.

Additional Items To Include In Your Vehicle*

- Portable Water. Four 16oz bottles per person per day (change out frequently).
- Non-perishable Food. Easy-open snack bars, trail mix, crackers.
- First aid kit, including personal medications.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Emergency Contact Card. Place with vehicle insurance information.
- Winter clothing for each traveler. Carry coats, boots, hats, gloves/mittens and/or scarves for each traveler—anything that would keep them warm if they need to evacuate the vehicle.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Hand warmers.
- Blankets for each traveler.
- Rain gear.
- Emergency flares and bright roadside traffic signal (cone, triangle).
- Safety beacon/flashing light.
- Tool kit. Include adjustable wrench, screw driver with adjustable bits (flat, square, Phillips), hammer, tow rope, duck tape.
- Deicer for vehicles.
- Ice scraper/brush.
- Jumper cables.
- Small shovel and traction aids (sand, non-clumping litter, chains).
- Paper, pen and local maps (with pre-determined travel routes). If you must leave your vehicle, be sure to leave a note telling others your travel plans.
- Cell phone charger and/or extra battery.
- Antiseptic towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.

**For a list to build a more detailed personal preparedness kit for your vehicle, go to TakeWinterByStorm.org.*



The remodel project repairs previous seismic damage and retrofits the building to current seismic standards.

STATION REMODEL, continued from page 1

the nearest medical facility. Upon completion of the project, the aid unit will return to Station #17.

“Station 17 was originally built to serve as the fire department headquarters station,” explains Peter Renner, City of Renton Facilities Director. “Then over time the building was converted to be a satellite station when the district headquarters was moved to another facility. Over the years the station was utilized for response operations, firefighters training, and public blood pressure screenings, with intermittent modifications and a number of structural additions.

“The layout of the original station was very dated and not extremely functional compared to modern fire stations,” Renner continues. “The original floor plan was chopped into small rooms and an inefficient layout, and of course the old building had seismic issues,” added Renner. “The last thing we need during an earthquake is for the roof to fall down on our first responders or their equipment. Fire code ratings for the building were also dated. The new design of Station 17 includes fire sprinklers throughout the building to protect the station and equipment from fire damage.

“We had to install fire sprinklers to protect our investment. What sets fire stations apart (from many other buildings of comparable scale) is the unique nature of what the building houses: a fire truck; an aid unit; expensive breathing apparatuses; specialized rescue equipment; large volumes of first-aid supplies; and the list goes on.”

The new layout includes a conference/training room for firefighters to maintain their readiness, and a new bunker storage room for proper care of the specialized equipment firefighters regularly use.

“A new feature at the facility,” adds Renner, “is Station 17 will soon have a dedicated Ham-radio room, which can provide a last line of communication in a major disaster.”

Improved livability for firefighters required to be on call for 24-hour periods or longer in the facility was achieved by upgrading and reconfiguring the kitchen area and dorm rooms. “The kitchen was very old and tired,” said Renner. “Now it will have durable finishes that are designed to last and easy to care for.” The new kitchen will now match the standards of other stations throughout Renton. In addition, the dorm

rooms have been brought up to meet current ADA requirement standards, providing individual rooms and private showers for the staff.



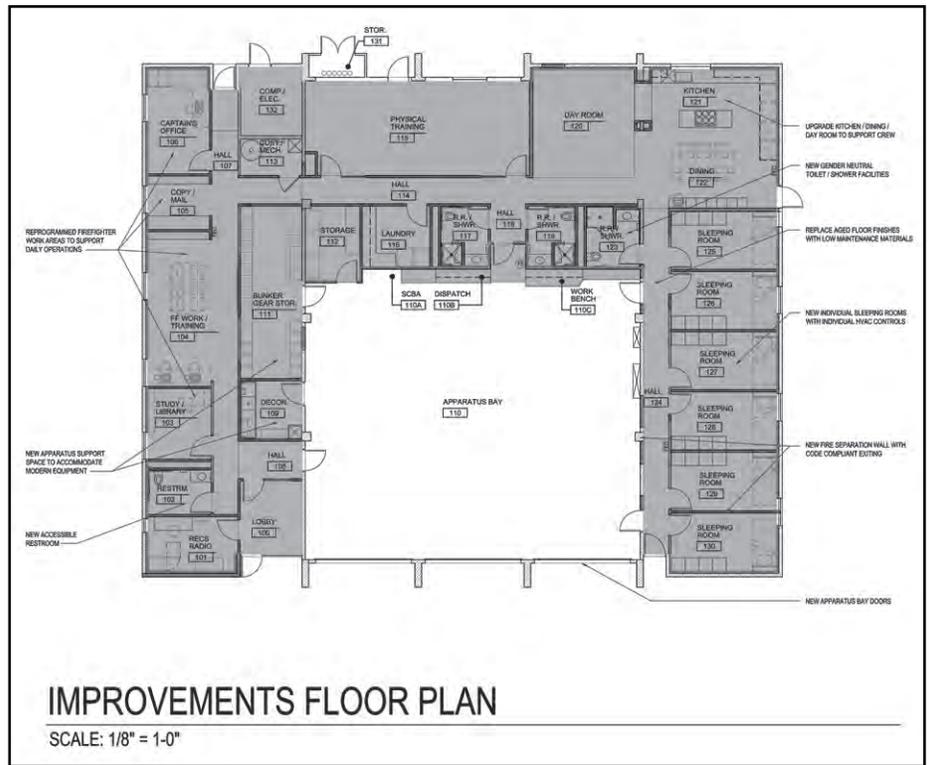
Station 17 firefighters are temporarily housed in a modified rental apartment immediately to the east of the station.

Currently Station 17 firefighters are housed in a rental apartment immediately to the east of the station. “This was a particularly fortunate situation,” said Renton Fire & Emergency Services Deputy Chief Erik Wallgren. “The apartment next door to the station became available just before we were to start the remodel, so we rented it. We’ve placed a secure access gate in the fence between the station and apartment, laid down a pathway, and modified the apartment to house firefighters and equipment during the remodel.”

The two-bedroom apartment includes the basic amenities to make the place both functional as an office and living quarters. Bunk beds taken from Station 17 have been moved into the bedrooms, closets have been modified to provide added storage space, and the dining and living rooms have been reconfigured to provide a work space for the resident firefighters.

“By renting this apartment unit, we also saved the

Continued on next page



The layout of the original station was very dated and not extremely functional compared to modern fire stations. The new layout includes a conference/training room for firefighters to maintain their readiness, a new bunker storage room for proper care of the expensive specialized equipment firefighters regularly use, improved livability for firefighters, and a dedicated Ham-radio room, which can provide a last line of communication in a major disaster.

Continued from previous page

district anywhere from \$60,000 to \$80,000 that would have otherwise been spent on bringing in temporary housing. When we're done with the apartment, our city facilities staff will return the unit to its original state."

"In the grand scheme of things Station 17 by some might be considered a satellite station," said Renner, "but its significance to the taxpayers of District 40 cannot be taken lightly. Voters have consistently voted to strongly support the Benefit Service Charge levies put forth over the years. They strongly supported the upgrade of Station 13, and now they have focused their attention on Station 17.

"Where other districts might have abandoned a building like this, not here," said Renner. "This station provides fire protection to the outlying areas, and the citizens want good fire protection and the speed of response that this station provides."

Since contracting for management services with District 40 in 2008, the City of Renton replaced the roof of the facility, and through the public bidding process secured the architects and contractors currently doing the remodel job. The architectural company is TCA Architecture

Planning, and the contractor is Powell Construction. "Powell Construction was also the contractor for the Henry Moses Aquatic Center," adds Renner. "Fire and water. They work with both elements."

According to Renner, the City of Renton and the commissioners have made a commitment to improving the area's fire service, providing reliable safety equipment and services to residents. All new communication equipment will be installed in the station by the city's signal shops and IT department, which currently provides all the communication services for the city's fire stations, emergency vehicles, and facilities throughout Renton.

"Coupling with Renton for services is a smart move by the commissioners," says Renner. "By taking advantage of a higher level of technical expertise that this city has to offer, they gain from the experienced personnel and resources we can provide."

"And speaking of communication," adds Renner, "a project is currently underway with Valley Com—providers of 9-1-1 service throughout the region—to install a communication relay system atop the Rolling Hills water reservoir, which will improve radio coverage throughout the area." But that's another story.



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What are the Benefits of a Benefit Service Charge?

In 1990 the citizens of Fire District 40 voted to approve the use of the Benefit Charge method of funding; they reauthorized its use in 1995, 2001 and 2007. The decisions by the voters assured the continuity of fire and life safety services for the community for the last 20 years.

By law, the Benefit Charge is set by the Board of Fire Commissioners annually at a public hearing and cannot exceed 60% of the district's operating budget. Historically, the Benefit Charge has averaged just over 40% of the operating budget, approximately 20% less than statutorily allowed. This is because the district has more flexibility in setting benefit charges than taxes and is able to use that flexibility to provide a more predictable and stable form of funding that best meets the needs of the district.

So what is the benefit? Appropriate staffing levels on fire engines, a 24-hour-a-day Aid Car, and modern apparatus to serve the community, and District facilities remain updated,

safe and well maintained.

Being less dependent on property taxes has allowed Fire District 40 to better weather the fluctuations in property values, especially over the past four years. While revenues continue to be limited, Fire District 40 has been able to maintain service levels for its citizens while many fire agencies across the county have unfortunately been forced to reduce services.

As Fire District 40 once again looks to the voters concerning the issue of Benefit Charge reauthorization, citizens should make every effort to become educated on how public safety services work and are funded, and continue to be well informed voters.

Paul E. Witt
Retired Fire Chief FD40
