



2017 Annual Report



RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

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WWW.RENTONRFA.ORG



PROFESSIONALISM • INTEGRITY • LEADERSHIP • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPECT



Myron Meikle

From the Governance Board Chairman

It is my honor to serve as your Chairman of the Renton Regional Fire Authority Governance Board.

On behalf of the men and women of the Governance Board, and Renton Regional Fire Authority, along with our front line men and women serving the community every day, I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report.

Residents of Renton, I would like to thank you for allowing us, along with the City of Renton and King County Fire Districts 25 and 40, the opportunity to better serve your emergency service needs.

Because of your support, we are able to grow Renton RFA in a way that will not only serve our current needs but also the needs of the future. Our area is continuing to grow at a fast pace, and we need to grow with it, not just from a fire and life safety aspect, but also fire prevention, public education, and community outreach.

We all have a stake in our community's safety. Along with the City of Renton, we want to continue providing quality service to all of our residents.

We, your Governance Board, as well as the uniformed and civilian personnel of Renton RFA, are dedicated to quality service and accountability—ensuring the highest level of emergency service to you, our residents. Our commitment to you is our highest priority and that is evident in the construction of the soon to be Fire Station 15, currently under construction in Kenndale. This station is just one more step in our commitment to lower response times, getting emergency equipment and trained responders to you quicker in your time of need.

I would like to extend my thanks to the dedicated members of Renton RFA for their hard work and professionalism in making our first year as a regional fire authority such a success. Without them we could not have accomplished our mission.

As your Chairman, I am proud to serve with a governance board. Our number one goal is to ensure the highest level of service to our community, and along with the men and women of Renton Regional Fire Authority, we look forward to our continued service to you. Thank you for your confidence and continued support.

Respectfully,

Myron Meikle
Chairperson, Renton Regional Fire Authority Governance Board

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Governance Board

Renton Regional Fire Authority is governed by a six person board consisting of three (3) Renton City Councilmembers and three (3) Fire District 25 Commissioners. There is also one (1) non-voting member representing King County Fire District 40, which contracts for services from the Renton RFA.

The Board is responsible for approving the Renton RFA budget each year and must conduct a public hearing as part of the budget process.



Front Row (L to R): Linda Sartnurak, Marcus Morrell, Ed Prince

Back Row (L to R): Myron Meikle, Kerry Abercrombie, Don Persson, Armondo Pavone

VISION

**Working to make our
community safer,
healthier, and stronger.**

MISSION

In partnership with our diverse community, we are dedicated to:

- Responding to and recovering from emergencies
- Reducing risk for all hazards
- Building a culture of safety and support for our members
- Adapting to future challenges through strategic planning



Fire Chief Rick Marshall

From the Fire Chief

I want to start by saying I am proud of what our organization has accomplished this past year. 2017 marked the first full calendar year of our organization as a regional fire authority and brought with it many challenges. In addition, as we continued to navigate our development as a new agency, expectations could not have been higher. Our teams rose to the occasion and met or exceed expectations throughout the year with focus, efficiency, and compassion for each other and the greater Renton community.

In keeping with our commitment to creating an organization that reflects the diverse community we proudly serve, we welcomed many new faces into the organization in 2017 from a variety of diverse backgrounds. We continue to implement hiring practices that grant opportunity to candidates we may not have been able to reach previously and allow us to fill our organization with bright talent from all walks of life. We also said farewell to several legacy members of our organization as they embarked on retirement after decades of dedicated service. These members helped shape the positive culture and environment we enjoy today, and we honor them by continuing to build on their success.

With the continual involvement and support of our members on the Station 15 Development Team, we find ourselves on track to deliver on the long-awaited Kennydale Fire Station in early 2019. Our team is working hand-in-hand with the City of Renton to resolve every detail necessary to ensure an expedient construction process and a seamless opening plan. This feat will not only better serve the Kennydale community by reducing response times significantly, it will also have a ripple effect for the greater Renton community as services will not be spread nearly as thin throughout the areas served by Stations 11 and 12.

The trajectory of our organization is extremely positive. The past year brought about many projects that saw implementation in early 2018 or remain in development for release later this year. These exciting projects further establish us as an independent government entity and relinquish our reliance on the City for services and support, including establishing our own accounting and payroll systems, developing our own web presence, and collaborating with Puget Sound Fire to create a new Benefit Charge system that enhances the experience of our community members. We have many more projects slated to release in 2018, as we continue to build a first class fire and life safety organization.

We remain focused on our core principles of professionalism, integrity, leadership, accountability, and respect. These values, coupled with our unending commitment to serve the Renton community, drive the decisions we make every day as we work to make our community safer, healthier, and stronger.

Sincerely,

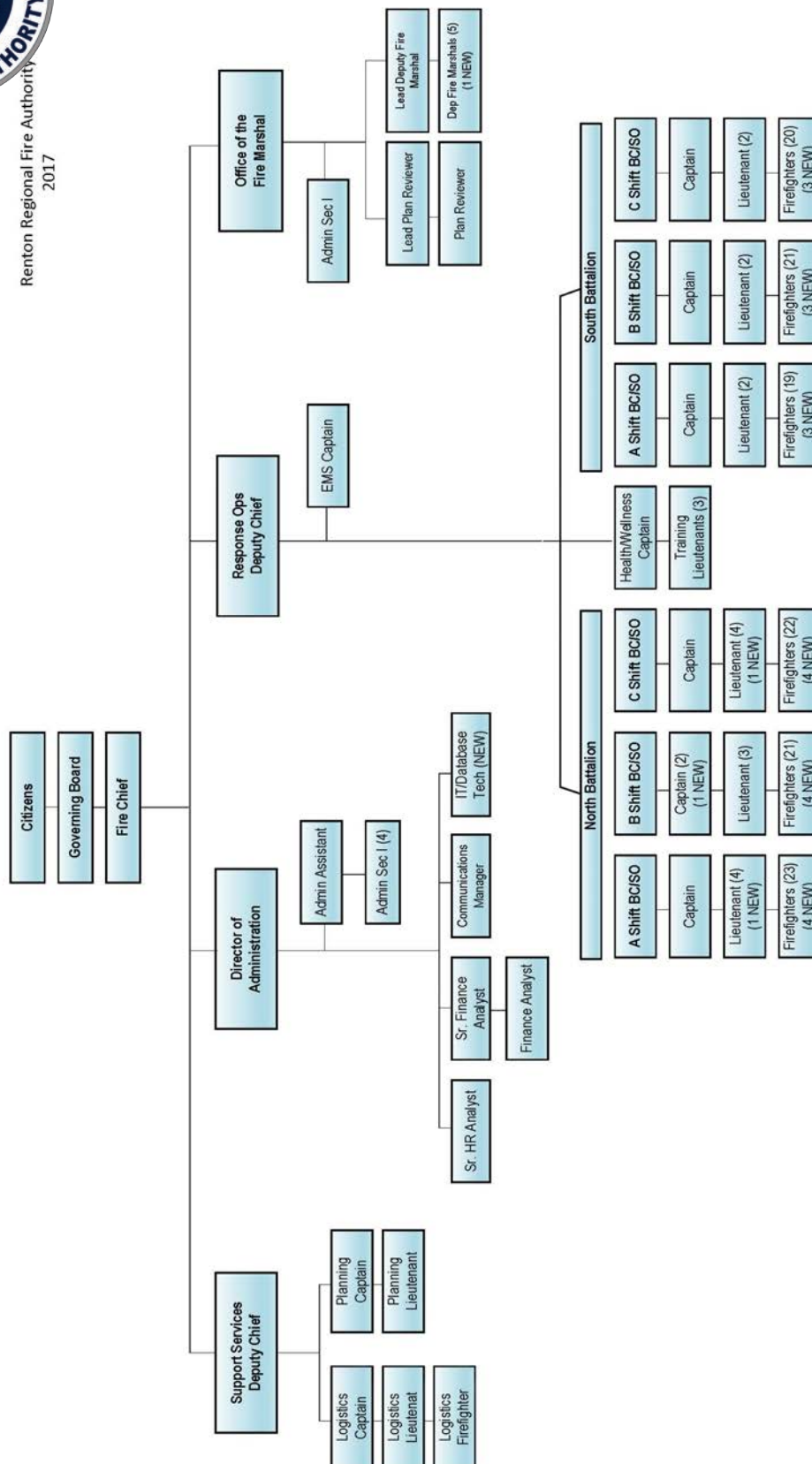
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Marshall', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Marshall
Fire Chief



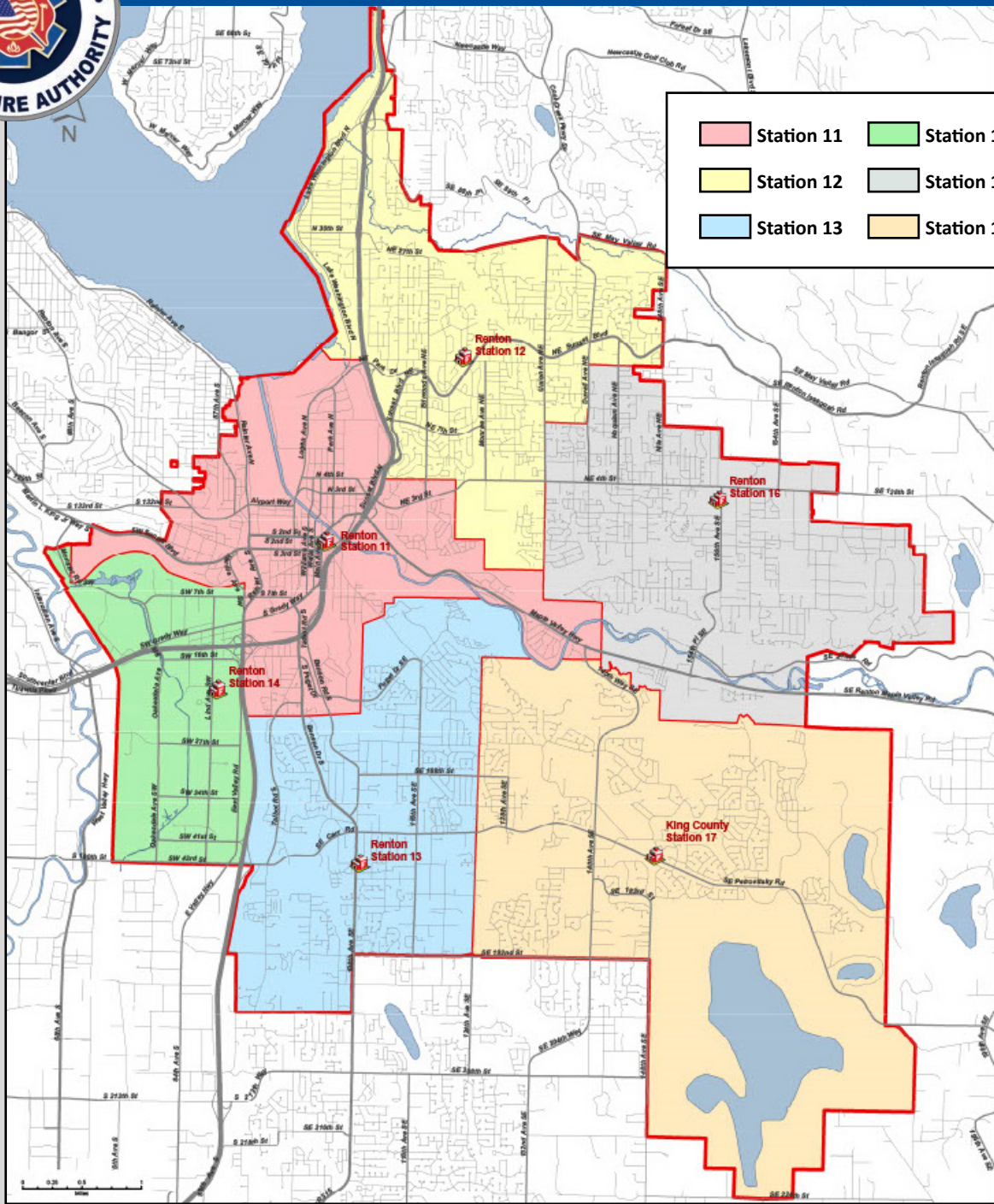
Organizational Chart

Renton Regional Fire Authority
2017





Service Area Map



Legal Jurisdiction	Population	Area (sq. miles)	Assessed Property Value
RRFA Coverage Area	131,863	33.29	\$22,434,391, 119
City of Renton	102,700	23.62	\$18,246,973,130
Fire District #25	7,972	3.65	\$1,278,354,000
Fire District #40	21,191	6.02	\$2,909,063,989

Source: Office of Financial Management 2017; City of Renton 2017; King County Assessor 2017



Fire Stations

NORTH BATTALION



Station 11
211 Mill Ave. S.
• Engine
• Ladder Truck



Station 12
1209 Kirkland Ave. N.E.
• Engine
• Aid Car
• Dive Rig



Station 16
12923 156th Ave. S.E.
• Engine

SOUTH BATTALION



Station 13
18002 108th Ave. S.E.
• Engine
• Aid Car



Station 14
1900 Lind Ave. S.W.
• Engine
• HazMat Unit



Station 17
14810 S.E. Petrovitsky Rd.
• Engine
• Aid Car



Support Services

AT A GLANCE



51

VEHICLES MAINTAINED



7

FACILITIES MANAGED



139

FIREFIGHTERS GEARED



1,500

FBC INQUIRIES ANSWERED

LOGISTICS

- Joined the Regional Logistics Co-Op Exploration Committee.
 - Completed project comparing tools, equipment and supplies utilized by all participating agencies.
 - Co-Op goal: more efficient purchasing practices, bulk buying power, and cost sharing to save participating agencies time and money in their logistics purchases. Taxpayers win when we collaborate.
- Received, accepted, and outfitted two new E-One fire engines.
- Internal committee finalized specifications for a new ladder truck and fire engine to replace two aging apparatus in 2019.
- Surplus program developed, allowing for the legal relinquishing of older equipment and vehicles for purchase by other entities, putting funds back into the budget for new equipment and vehicles.



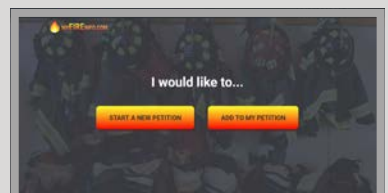
New E-One Fire Engine



Surplus Program at Work

PLANNING

- Completed the Renton RFA Standards of Cover.
- Worked as part of the team that developed MyFireInfo.com - a website dedicated to easing the Benefit Charge petition process and future home of real-time, local fire and life safety information for the community.
- Partnered with the Response Operations division to improve station orders based on GIS and response time data.
 - These adjustments help improve response time by identifying the most efficient routes to emergency locations.
- Established the Renton RFA Capital Facilities Plan, identifying facility and apparatus needs between 2017 and 2023, and developed sound fiscal policies and resources to sustainably fund those needs.



MyFireInfo.com

FACILITIES

- McKinstry Facility Assessment completed on each fire station as part of Renton RFA's capital improvement plan, designed to manage the costs of repair and replacement of critical building equipment over time.

CHAPLAINS

- Hired new chaplain, Brad Zylstra, joining existing chaplain, Loretta Green.



Brad Zylstra



Loretta Green



Administration

AT A GLANCE



\$37,700,000

ANNUAL OPERATING
BUDGET



340

PUBLIC RECORDS
REQUESTS PROCESSED



3,705

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



156

FULL-TIME, PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL

ACCOUNTING

- Internalized all financial operations including: Finance, Accounting, Payroll, AP, and AR.
- Launched new HR and Accounting software, improving efficiencies and reducing transaction time and costs.
- Implemented zero-based budgeting process, requiring every expenditure to be justified each budget cycle.
- Updated the Capital Facilities Plan and Fire Impact Fee Schedule.
- Revised the 15 year Fleet Replacement Plan to more accurately reflect our current and projected needs.
- Increased transparency and accountability through open communication and education throughout the organization.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Provided administrative support to four Divisions of the organization, the Fire Chief, and the Governance Board for both the RFA and for Fire District 25.
- Processed 340 Public Records Requests.
- Responded to numerous public inquiries regarding Fire Benefit Charge, CPR class enrollments, and general departmental activities.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Completed the Brand Standards Manual, defining a consistent communication strategy for the organization.
- Worked on the redevelopment of www.RentonRFA.org for launch in 2018.
- Partnered with Puget Sound RFA to develop www.MyFireInfo.com.
- Expanded our social media communications by increasing engagement and adding two new platforms.
- Implemented automation tools to streamline our communications processes.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Provided ongoing support related to pay, benefits, policy, collective bargaining agreements, workers compensation, ADA, and FMLA.
- Welcomed seven new employees (five firefighters and two administrative personnel).
- Said goodbye to eight personnel (retirements and separations).
- Graduated four new recruits from the Fire Academy.
- Conducted two internal promotional exam processes.
- Aided in coordination and celebration of Renton RFA's Second Annual Retirement and Awards Banquet.



Response Operations

AT A GLANCE



22,471

EMERGENCY RESPONSES



200

AVG. TRAINING HOURS
PER FIREFIGHTER



1,121

PUBLIC OUTREACH
EVENT HOURS



139

PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

SPECIAL TEAMS

Technical Rescue

The Technical Rescue special team conducted **26 Responses** in 2017.

Water Rescue (Dive & Swift Water)

The Water Rescue special team conducted **36 Responses** in 2017.

Hazardous Materials

The HazMat special team conducted **354 Responses** in 2017.

TRAINING

Renton RFA is an active participant in the South King County Fire Training Consortium. This organization is comprised of ten local fire and life safety agencies with a mission to develop and deliver superior training that improves safety and performance for firefighters and community members alike. Below are stats from our participation in 2017:

28,795

Total training hours in 2017.

4

Renton RFA trainers provided training at the South King County Fire Training Consortium.

Apprentice Firefighters graduated to Journeyman Firefighters.

9

139

Professional firefighters participated in training throughout 2017.

12

New Firefighters recruited and began their training academy.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Although firefighters are physically strong, there are many other aspects that go into making a well-rounded, healthy responder. We participate in a comprehensive health and wellness program, run by our Health and Wellness Captain. 2017 marked the launch of our Health and Wellness website, providing our members with guidance and support in fitness, nutrition, post traumatic stress, mental health, and more.



Response Operations

RESPONSE TIMES

Washington State Law mandates that fire departments establish priority response criteria and measure this performance each year in meeting these standards. This measurement is taken in intervals that include:

- **Turnout Time:** The initial time when units first receive notifications of emergency, to the point they respond.
- **Travel Interval:** The measured time between turnout time and when the first fire department unit arrives at the scene/incident.
- **Response Time:** The time between being dispatched and when the first unit arrives at the scene (Turnout Time + Travel Interval).

RESPONSE RESULTS

2017 RESPONSE TIME FACTORS

The top three factors that impact response time in excess of the aspirational goal are:

- Availability due to call volume
- Responding out of assigned area
- Distance to calls in assigned areas

The Renton Regional Fire Authority uses a fractal time measurement to monitor overall response times.

The first goal is to have each apparatus en route to the emergency within two minutes (turnout time). The second goal is to have the first unit arrive at the scene within seven and one-half minutes 90% of the time.

Response Measures	Time*
Turnout Times: <i>Initial time when units first receive notifications of emergency to the point they respond.</i>	2 minutes, 39 seconds, 90% of the time or less.
Arrival of First Alarm Assignment: <i>Three engines, one ladder, one aid unit, one command unit (15th person arrival).</i>	14 minutes, 22 seconds, 90% of the time or less
Arrival of 1st Unit for Fire Incidents	7 minutes, 49 seconds, 90% of the time or less
Arrival of 1st Units for EMT Incidents	7 minutes, 27 seconds, 90% of the time or less
Total Response Times (Fire & EMS)	7 minutes, 31 seconds, 90% of the time or less

These response time measurements allow the department to analyze those incidents where response times do not meet department goals and find ways to reduce response times in order to provide the highest level of service possible.

2017 TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS

Total Dollar Loss from Properties in 2017

- There was \$5,777,254 in property loss on total assessed property value of \$22,434,391,119.
- Single biggest property loss from an incident was \$700,000.
- The 117 structure fires resulted in \$5,288,734 in property loss.
- Other fires resulted in \$484,520 in property loss.



Office of the Fire Marshal

AT A GLANCE



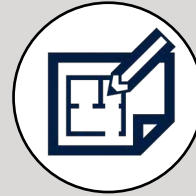
4,623

FIRE INSPECTIONS



435

CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTIONS



642

FIRE PLANS REVIEWED



51

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

FIRE INSPECTIONS

Our goal is to inspect businesses and multi-family buildings as follows:

- Annual inspections when a fire alarm and fire sprinkler system are not present, or when hazardous materials are present, regardless of fire alarm and fire sprinkler status.
- Biennial when fire alarms and fire sprinklers are present.
- Triennial for health care buildings that receive regular fire and life safety inspections from the state (nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living facilities).

In 2017, we completed 4,623 fire and life safety inspections, re-inspections, special event inspections, and complaint inspections. Our overall fire inspection program demonstrated a direct reduction in the number of fires that met the criteria for a fire investigation from 2016 to 2017.



NEW CONSTRUCTION / RENOVATION INSPECTIONS

In addition to the fire and life safety inspections described above, Renton RFA inspects fire and life safety systems, new construction, and alterations. **In 2017, we performed 435 of these inspections.**

FIRE PLANS REVIEW

Our staff work closely with City of Renton Planning and Development Services to review fire and life safety systems and access to buildings to ensure they meet applicable codes and standards. **In 2017, we completed 642 fire plans reviews for new construction and renovation projects within the City of Renton.**

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Our deputy fire marshals respond to fires where there is an estimated dollar loss of \$10,000 or more, where there are ANY injuries or deaths, or where a fire is suspicious in nature.

2017 saw a significant decrease in fires meeting the criteria for a fire investigation, with only 51 fires requiring investigation – a 55% reduction from 2016. While overall we saw a reduction in these fires, we continue to be concerned with the trend of preventable home fires – areas where people are most likely to be injured or die in a fire.



Office of the Fire Marshal

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

The Renton RFA Office of the Fire Marshal only investigates fires within the City of Renton. Fires that occur outside of city limits are investigated by the King County Sheriff's Office and are not reflected in this report.

Of the 51 fires we investigated in 2017, 34 of them occurred on residential properties.

OVERALL FIRE DETERMINATIONS

Accidental fires were found to be the leading cause of fires (these include cooking, smoking, electrical, and other fires that were not intentional in nature), while intentionally set fires account for 11 of the 51 fires investigated in 2017 (these included fires started in vacant buildings).

There were 14 fires (residential and commercial) investigated that we could not make a scientific determination on the cause of the fire. While we can assume what the fire cause was on many of the 14 fires, we could not scientifically prove the cause and therefore list them as "undetermined".

RESIDENTIAL FIRES BY CAUSE

Cause of Fires	# of Fires
Cooking	7
Electrical	5
Smoking	3
Arson	3
Vacant/Abandoned	3
Improper Use	2
Marijuana Grow Op	2
Heater	1
Chimney	1
Undetermined	7
Grand Total	34

FALSE ALARMS

We responded to 1,065 false alarms in 2017. This amount was the same as 2016. False alarms have a serious impact on our organization and our community. Due to this cost and community impact, fines are issued on preventable alarms throughout the year. **False alarm fines totaled \$13,130 in 2017.**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1911. 2017's theme "**Every Second Counts**" highlighted the importance of having a fire evacuation plan and practicing that plan with your family – to ensure no time is wasted during a fire emergency.

2017 was an exciting year for Fire Prevention Week. Vince's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria co-sponsored a fire safety event and provided free pizza and soda to area residents that came out that afternoon. Approximately 60 people came through our booth that day and received fire safety information while kids in our community had an opportunity to sit in the fire engine and received balloons, fire hats and other fire prevention educational materials.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

Our staff also spent time on various activities such as providing fire safety training to our senior community and businesses, responding to complaints, special events such as providing crowd control at the Renton River Days Parade, inspecting the annual Fabulous 4th of July Fireworks Show, working with the Renton Police Department in enforcing the voter approved ban on consumer fireworks on the 4th of July and professional training and development.





2017 Summary

POPULATION SERVED

Renton	102,700
KCFD #25	7,972
KCFD #40	21,191
Total Population	131,863

COVERAGE AREA (sq. mi.)

Renton	23.62
KCFD #25	3.65
KCFD #40	6.02
Total Area	33.29

FIRE STATIONS

North Battalion:

- Station 11
- Station 12
- Station 16

South Battalion:

- Station 13
- Station 14
- Station 17

RENTON RFA DIVISIONS

- Response Operations
- Support Services
- Office of the Fire Marshal
- Administration

RENTON RFA PERSONNEL

Uniformed	139
Civilians	15
Chaplains	2

RESPONSES BY FIRE STATION

Station 11	6,142
Station 12	4,520
Station 13	4,174
Station 14	2,194
Station 16	1,869
Station 17	2,357
Out of Area	1,215
Grand Total	22,471

RESPONSES BY APARATUS

A12	2,698
A13	2,820
A16	13
A17	1,696
B12	580
B13	574
BR17	29
DIV12	28
E11	4,030
E12	1,716
E13	1,672
E14	1,679
E16	1,591
E17	946
HM14	187
L11	2,134
Reserve Aparatus	78
Grand Total	22,471

TRANSPORTS BY AGENCY

Renton RFA	2,041
AMB	3,767
KC Medic One	779
Other	25
Grand Total	6,612

RESPONSES BY TYPE

EMS	15,520
False Alarms	2,341
Fire	1,376
Good Intent	1,699
Hazardous Materials	654
Public Assist	731
Rupture/Explosion	128
Weather	22
Grand Total	22,471

RESPONSES BY FIRE TYPE

Structure Fires	117
Cooking Fires	54
Vehicle Fires	74
Natural Vegetation Fires	190
Outside Trash Fires	49
Other Types of Fires	37
Grand Fire Incidents	521

Total Property Loss \$5,777,254

Inspections (business, multi-family, IFC permit, special, complaint, and re-inspections) 4,623

Construction Inspections 435

Fire Investigations 51

Fire Plans Reviewed 642

Notes: Responses include regular and reserve units, both in and outside of our service area.



2017 Awards & Recognition

2017 MEMBERS OF THE YEAR



Officer of the Year
Will Aho,
Captain



Firefighter of the Year
Kevin Swynenburg,
Firefighter



EMT of the Year
Christian Moore,
Firefighter



Civilian of the Year
Corey Thomas,
Lead Plans Reviewer



Ladder 11, B Shift (L to R): Mike Boyer, David Laha, and Marcus Rismiller. Lt. Roger White not pictured.

Top Engine Company: Engine 12, A Shift

Will Aho, Captain
Keith Eley, Firefighter
Luke Alvarado, Firefighter
Ryan Reynoldson, Firefighter

Top Ladder Company: Ladder 11, B Shift

Roger White, Lieutenant
Mike Boyer, Firefighter
David Laha, Firefighter
Marcus Rismiller, Firefighter

Top Aid Unit: Aid 13, A Shift

Jacob Smith, Firefighter
Steve Trujillo, Firefighter
Andrew Facchini, Firefighter

Valor Award

Dan Powell, Firefighter

Meritorious Service Award

Mike Boyer, Firefighter



Core Values

PROFESSIONALISM

- We pursue every opportunity to deliver our best possible services to our community.
- We are actively committed to the success of the organization.
- We build on professional competencies to achieve excellence.

INTEGRITY

- We continually demonstrate honest and ethical behavior to build and earn trust.

LEADERSHIP

- We proactively identify our leaders at all levels.
- Leaders positively influence the work environment and inspire others to achieve success in their responsibilities.
- We demonstrate consistent, respectful and responsive communications with all others.
- We invest in the professional development of our leaders.
- Each member has a leadership role within the department.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We are personally and professionally accountable for our actions, behaviors, and decisions.
- We treat all members in a consistent and equitable manner regardless of roles and responsibilities.

RESPECT

- We treat internal and external customers with empathy and compassion.
- We embrace the diversity of our community and our individual perspectives, experiences, and identities.



*“The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself in the service
of others.”*

-Ghandi



PROFESSIONALISM • INTEGRITY • LEADERSHIP • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPECT