



RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



2019 Renton Airport Drill

Renton’s Public Protection Rating Gets an Upgrade

In 2018 we achieved a Public Protection Class Rating upgrade from a Class 3 to a Class 2 organization. We were excited to learn that this upgrade put us in the top 5 percent of fire and life safety agencies in the country, but even more excited that the ripple effects of this upgrade may lead to savings for property owners throughout the Renton community.

The Public Protection Classification (PPC) program is a tool developed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) for property and casualty insurers to properly assess their risk by rating fire protection services throughout the United States.

ISO collects data from more than 40,000 communities and fire districts throughout the country. The data is analyzed using a proprietary Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The schedule determines a fire department’s PPC

score between Class 1 and Class 10. Class 1 represents “Superior Property Fire Protection” while Class 10 indicates that an area does not meet the minimum criteria set forth by the ISO.

“We owe our gratitude to the voters who approved the creation of Renton RFA. By casting their vote for our organization, those community members got the ball rolling.”

- Fire Chief Rick Marshall

The improvements made since the inception of Renton RFA have led to this outstanding upgrade in PPC for the Renton community. Because PPC is one of the key factors in insurance premium determination, not only does this upgrade represent exceptional fire and life safety protection throughout the community, Renton property owners will also have an opportunity to see real savings in their insurance premiums, effective this year.

If you would like to find out more information about Renton’s PPC rating, please visit: www.rentonrfa.org/ppc

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When a mysterious Renton RFA patch was photographed by a traveler off the coast of Ireland, we wondered how it got there.

After a little investigation, we soon discovered that one of our members recently vacationed there. He explained that while exploring the Cliffs of Moher, he came across a spot adorned with hair ties and wristbands. When he asked what the significance was, a local advised that the trinkets were meant to signify the journey and honor the fallen.

Our member left the patch and wristband there to honor Donovan Eckhardt - a fallen Renton Firefighter and the reason the Lionhardt organization exists to aid firefighters and their families in times of great need. We thank the traveler for sharing the photo and our member for honoring one of our own.

WE ARE LIONHARDT!
www.lionhardt.org



Fire Safety Tips for Fall

As temperatures drop, it's time to start thinking about the fire safety risks that can arise during the fall months.

CANDLES

You may be tempted to bring out your favorite fall scented candles as the season changes. However, candles should be handled with caution. Keep candles 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Never use candles if oxygen is used in your home for medical purposes. Electric candles are a safer alternative.

HEATING EQUIPMENT

Check and service heating devices before cranking up the heat. When heating equipment has been out of use for several months, it's critical to make sure it is functioning properly.

If you use space heaters, ensure that there is at least three feet of clear space around them. Don't place items on space heaters to dry, and turn heaters off when going to bed.

If you have a fireplace, it's crucial to have it cleaned and inspected before you begin using it to prevent creosote buildup that can lead to a chimney fire. Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.

SAFE LEAF REMOVAL

Make sure you are taking care of leaves and debris properly and periodically. This means cleaning out gutters and not leaving large piles of dried leaves near your home.

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

All homes are required by law to have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. With the end of Daylight Saving Time occurring November 3, we recommend that when you change your clock, you change your batteries.

Want even more safety tips?

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at: www.rentonrfa.org/newsletter-signup

Message from the Fire Chief



I am pleased to present the first edition of Community Connection: our biannual print newsletter. This newsletter is one of many ways we are working to keep our community informed of important safety information and help them stay in tune with what's happening inside Renton RFA.

Over the past three years, our organization has made the transition from being a division of the City to being a stand-alone agency. This transition has afforded us the ability to bring major projects to fruition, such as the construction and operation of Fire Station 15. It also allowed us

to make improvements to our service that led to a public protection classification upgrade for our community, putting us in the top 5 percent of fire agencies in the country. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but we will continue to push the boundaries of public service to the Renton community.

With our headquarters moved from City Hall to Fire Station 13 and our major administrative functions now managed independently from the City, our sights are set on the future of our organization. Moving forward, our focus is on continuing to provide world-class fire and life safety services, in the most efficient and innovative manner, while honoring our commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility.

As Fire Chief, this means working strategically to identify and support the needs of our unique community, while exploring opportunities for collaboration with other local partners that allow us to expand community services while sharing the burden of cost. Some of our more recent, successful collaborations include the introduction of our expanded CPR/First Aid program, and the launch of our FDCARES program.

I look forward to sharing more updates on the programs and services available to the Renton community through our organization in future newsletters, as we continue to work toward a safer, healthier, and stronger Renton community.

Rick Marshall
Fire Chief



Same Great Service, Smaller Footprint

We are committed to healthy environments for our firefighters and improving our facilities' carbon footprint. Each of our fire stations is a true 24-hour facility and is used under emergent and nonemergent situations. It's important that all aspects of our community-owned facilities work at a moment's notice, as well as during adverse weather and power outages.

To bridge the gap between constant functionality and energy efficiency, we have partnered with McKinstry and NAESCO in 2020 to evaluate our utility use, update LED lighting, perform heating/cooling audits, and manage available grants.

Our focus is on strategic planning and proactive maintenance that maximizes our budget and helps us reduce and manage long-term costs.

A great example of this commitment is our newest fire station (Station 15), located in the Kenndale neighborhood. It was built in 2018 as a "Healthy In/Healthy Out" concept for our firefighters. All furniture, flooring, appliances, and air systems were installed to decrease the amount of carcinogens and bacteria in the station, leading to a cleaner, healthier facility for our firefighters and our community.



Lieutenant Rismiller and his wife Brelin

Renton Grown Firefighters

When it comes to hiring firefighters, we receive test scores from all over the country! Our members come from far and wide to serve the Renton community. But we also receive a lot of interest from Renton-born residents with a deep love for serving the community they call home.

One of the reasons we receive such a high level of interest from Renton residents is the strong partnership between Renton RFA and our local school districts. Whether it be helping students learn their numbers, giving them a taste of what it's like to be a firefighter through our Combat Challenge, or working with student groups to facilitate distracted driving simulations for the safety of their peers - we work with local schools to engage students in meaningful ways throughout the year.

Our investment in our local schools has provided great returns for our organization and our community. The Emergency Medicine Program at Hazen High School is geared toward students

interested in entering the emergency medical field in roles such as an EMT or firefighter. The program also helps graduating seniors enter the North Seattle Community College (NSCC) Emergency Medicine Degree program. This degree program is one we support as the main provider of their mandated student ride-alongs. Our support of this program, as well as our work with Hazen, gives us the opportunity to meet potential new recruits. It also gives them the opportunity to meet our team and learn more about how we work in the community.

All of these outreach efforts have led to a more educated and informed community and a familiarity that attracts individuals interested in emergency medicine and public service to Renton RFA. Some of our firefighters who were raised right here in Renton include Captain Morgan, who graduated from Hazen High School; Lieutenant Rismiller, Firefighter Kimbrel, and Firefighter Fisher, who graduated from Liberty High School; and one of our newest members, Firefighter Armstrong, who graduated from Kentridge High School. Even our own Deputy Fire Chief of Support Services Chuck DeSmith is a lifelong Renton resident and has served the fire service for decades.

Like all of our firefighters, these locally grown members go above and beyond for their community. This year, Renton's own Lieutenant Rismiller was awarded a Medal of Valor for his heroic acts on the job to save the life of a fellow Renton resident.

Lt. Rismiller responded to a call for aid in March alongside the crew of Engine 13. The call was for a reported vehicle fire with a potential victim inside. When Lt. Rismiller arrived on-scene with the Engine 13B Shift crew, they sprang into action. While the crew secured a line to extinguish the blaze, Lt. Rismiller inspected the vehicle for occupants. Discovering an occupant trapped inside the vehicle, he risked his own life to enter the engulfed vehicle and pull the victim to safety, saving the young woman's life.

It is important to us to cultivate an organization that reflects the beautiful community we proudly serve. Hiring local firefighters that show such dedication to Renton is a great step in that effort. If you're interested in learning more about joining Renton RFA, visit: www.rentonrfa.org/careers



Message from the Board Chair

We all have a stake in our community's safety. I would like to thank our residents and business community for entrusting us with the opportunity to serve each one of you. I would also like to recognize the City of Renton and King County Fire Districts 25 and 40 for their help and support as well. Because of your support, we are able to provide excellent and relevant service in a way that will serve not only our current needs but also the needs of the future. Our area is continuing to grow at a fast pace, and we need to continue to look at innovative ways to provide emergency response, fire prevention, public education, and community outreach.

Simply put, we care about you and the community you live and work in. 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 each of you. Your safety and well-being is our highest priority.

I am proud to serve as Chair of the Renton RFA Governance Board. We look forward to our continued service to the Renton Community. Thank you for your confidence and continued support.

Armondo Pavone
Chair, Renton RFA Governance Board

Home Fire Extinguishers – What, Where, and Why

Keeping a portable fire extinguisher in your home is just one component of your home safety plan. It's a tool that, when used properly can put out a small fire. The National Fire Protection Association recommends keeping an easily accessible fire extinguisher on every level of a home.

The most common type of home fire extinguisher

is a 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher, which can be purchased at a local hardware store, any of the big retailers here in Renton, or online. This particular fire extinguisher is large enough to put out a small fire, yet easy to handle. Operating an extinguisher is as easy as pulling the pin, aiming the nozzle at the base of the fire, and squeezing the handles slowly while sweeping from side to side until the fire is out.

A home fire extinguisher is a one-time use item. After use, follow the manufacturer's instructions on having it serviced or how to dispose of it properly. The manufacturer also provides instructions for mounting an extinguisher to a wall and maintaining the extinguisher in working condition.

For more information, or if you have questions, contact our Fire Marshal's office.

Renton, Meet Your Newest Firefighters

On June 27, 2019, we welcomed eight new firefighters into the Renton RFA family as they officially graduated from the fire academy. These individuals went through 21 weeks of intensive fire and emergency medical training to prepare for public service here in Renton. But their journey to becoming Renton firefighters started long before stepping foot into the academy.

Months prior to starting academy, these firefighters beat out hundreds of applicants who tested to be considered for a firefighter position with Renton RFA. They weathered an application process and three panel interviews with our

firefighters, company officers and battalion chiefs, and finally our deputy fire chiefs and fire chief.

Once approved, they underwent background checks, as well as medical and physical evaluations. They did all this before even beginning the months-long training program.

Post-graduation, these firefighters are now assigned to stations and shifts, but their work is not yet done. They have three years to complete their JATC Journeyman Firefighter Program - a total of 6,000 hours of training. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.



Spencer **Armstrong**



Nick **Felt**



Lyubomir **Lazurkevich**



Sean **Leahy**



Cody **Olson**



Kasey **Parker**



Travis **Retherford**



Logan **Wasem**

Interested in
a career with
Renton RFA?

Visit:
rentonrfa.org/careers

ABOUT RENTON RFA

Renton Regional Fire Authority was formed in 2016 after voters elected to create a special purpose district to provide critical fire and life safety services to the Renton community.

Our members include firefighter personnel, fire marshal personnel, and civilian personnel who work together to ensure that the best possible service is delivered to the City of Renton, as well as King County Fire District 25 and 40.

Our jurisdiction includes over 130,000 community members across 33.29 square miles. In 2018, we performed 22,840 emergency responses for fire and life safety services throughout the community.

RENTON RFA GOVERNANCE BOARD

ARMONDO PAVONE
CHAIR

KERRY ABERCROMBIE
VICE CHAIR

ED PRINCE
BOARD MEMBER

MYRON MEIKLE
BOARD MEMBER

DON PERSSON
BOARD MEMBER

MARCUS MORRELL
BOARD MEMBER

LINDA SARTNURAK
BOARD MEMBER (NONVOTING)

RENTON RFA LEADERSHIP TEAM

RICK MARSHALL
FIRE CHIEF

ROY GUNSOLUS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF RESPONSE OPERATIONS

CHUCK DeSMITH
DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES

ANJELA BARTON
FIRE MARSHAL

SAMANTHA BABICH
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



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Effective Jan. 1, 2020 our
headquarters phone number is
changing to (425) 276-9500