



RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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RETURNING TO RENTON SCHOOLS

Since the inception of Renton RFA, one of our proudest accomplishments has been establishing a public education program that allows us to be proactive about fire and life safety education throughout the Renton community. We understand that education is key to both prevention and effective response to an emergency situation. Partnering with Renton schools to provide that important safety education to our youngest community members is where it all begins.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges for providing public education. At the onset of the pandemic, Public Educator Sara Ferguson sprang into action and found numerous ways to engage with our community about critical safety topics, safely. Some of her outreach tactics included live-streamed story times, robust social media posts, establishing a virtual classroom, and utilizing online meeting

tools to deliver important fire safety lessons in real time. However, with all of the virtual tools at our disposal, there is nothing quite like being able to interact with our community members face to face.

We are now able to safely enter Renton schools and resume this crucial and rewarding fire and life safety education, and we could not be more excited! If you would like to learn more about our public education resources, visit us at: rentonrfa.com/public-education

You can also visit our virtual classroom at: rentonrfa.com/vc

And lastly, if you would like to request an in-person visit from our public educator to your classroom or business, please reach out to us at: rentonrfa.com/contact

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9 Español CPR, AED, First Aid Class**
Location: Fire Station 13
Register: www.rentonrfa.com/cpr
- May 7 CPR, AED, First Aid Class**
Location: Fire Station 13
Register: www.rentonrfa.com/cpr
- June 1 Renton RFA Scout Night**
Location: Fire Station 14
Register: TBA
- June 1 FREE Friends & Family CPR Class**
Location: Fire Station 13
Register: www.rentonrfa.com/cpr
- June 4 CPR, AED, First Aid Class**
Location: Fire Station 13
Register: www.rentonrfa.com/cpr

Visit rentonrfa.com/events for more information.



A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF STEVE HEITMAN

we have forged ahead with safe and healthy event planning, one of which is our certified CPR classes.

Providing our community members with a low-cost means of learning the CPR, AED and first aid skills necessary to help keep their loved ones and fellow community members safe in the critical minutes before our firefighters can arrive is crucial to our vision for Renton. Our classes take place at Fire Station 13 and are available to those over the age of 12 with an adult, and over the age of 16 without. If you're in need of CPR, AED, or first aid certification, you can learn more about our training at:

rentonrfa.com/cpr

Another event we're excited to announce is our upcoming Scout Night. Spear-headed by our Public Education team and supported by our public service partners from the City of Renton and the Renton Police Department, we will once again welcome scouts from throughout Renton to join us and make strides toward their badges on several safety topics. That event will take place on June 1, 2022, at Fire Station 14. Expect to see more announcements about this exciting event on our social media accounts in the coming months: @rentonrfa.

I am so grateful to you, our community, for passing Proposition 1 in the fall of 2021. This measure will allow us to continue receiving the funding necessary to best serve the Renton community.

We have several capital improvement projects that we are working hard on in 2022. Those projects include a remodel at Fire Station 14 to better house our growing Office of the Fire Marshal team, and a remodel at Fire Station 11, which is utilizing a grant to partially fund the installation of a sprinkler system in the crew quarters—saving taxpayers while improving the safety of our firefighters. In addition, we will be receiving two new engines and aid cars to replace apparatus in our aging fleet over the next few months.

Perhaps the most exciting project is the reconstruction of Fire Station 16. We are working diligently on a land acquisition for the location of this new station. Station 16 is our oldest station, and we have known for a long time that its reconstruction is imminent. To approach this project in the most fiscally responsible way, our board and organization agree that the purchase of a new property and fresh construction is the best course of action for Renton and Fire District 25. We are very excited about this opportunity and will be bringing you more information in coming news releases.

Lastly, I want to share my gratitude for our community's ongoing support. I recently finished my first official year as your new fire chief, and I am humbled by the overwhelmingly positive feedback and participation that we receive from Renton community members daily. Thank you for making what we do possible.

It is with great enthusiasm that I can officially welcome you back to the fire stations! For several years now, our organization has been on the front lines of the global pandemic, backed by the strong support of our amazing community. It has been a long journey for all of us, and one we're not entirely done tackling together, but we are excited for the ability to begin opening our doors to the public again. We also have numerous great projects and developments in the works that will make 2022 one of our best years yet.

The ability for our community members to enter the fire stations means a lot to us. With the last of the COVID-19 mandates lifted for our stations,

SPRING SAFETY TIPS

SAFETY
CORNER

With warmer weather and longer days approaching, spring cleaning, home repairs and yard work are at the top of the to-do list. Add fire safety to your to-do list to ensure our homes and yards are safe from dangerous material and unsafe conditions.

Reduce your chances of an accidental home fire that starts outdoors by removing leaves, pine needles, and other flammable materials from your roof and gutters. Take time to remove any dead vegetation and other flammable materials from around your home's exterior. Also, keep construction materials, trash, and woodpiles away from the home to prevent an accidental fire from spreading to your home.

In addition:

- Never throw cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, or other similar items—they can easily catch fire.
- When refueling your lawn mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine.

Fire Pit Safety & Regulations

In the spring and summer, we receive

inquiries about rules and regulations for fire pits or recreational fires.

What can I burn outside? The only outdoor burning allowed is for recreational fires on your own private property. A recreational fire is defined as an outdoor fire burning charcoal, dried firewood, or manufactured fire logs, for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are NOT considered recreational fires.

What are the rules for recreational fires? Recreational fires are restricted to a pile that is no larger than three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height. They must be at least 25 feet away from any structure or combustible material (dry grass, wooden fences, or decks, etc.).

The fire must be constantly attended and at least one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as an operational garden hose, readily available.

Burning is not allowed when a burn ban is in effect. Additionally, any recreational fire that is bothersome to your neighbors must be extinguished.

Grilling Safety

Summer brings the peak for outdoor cooking season. Every year over 10,000 home fires are started by grills each year. The leading causes of home grilling fires are failing to properly clean the grill or having a flammable object too close to the grill. It's also important to check the grill for damage before using it for the first time each year and then to check it regularly.

- Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in your trailer, tent, house, garage, or any closed area, as carbon monoxide may accumulate and create a life-threatening hazard.
- Position the grill in an open area at least 10 feet away from buildings, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Use barbecue utensils with long handles to avoid burns and splatters.
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves and use flame-retardant mitts.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.



CELEBRATING 20 MORE YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

Effective January 1, 2022, Renton Regional Fire Authority (Renton RFA) and King County Fire District 40 (Fire District 40) entered a brand new, 20-year partnership! We are extremely excited about this new agreement and what it means for the Fairwood community.

Fire District 40 originally began contracting with the City of Renton for fire service in 2008, prior to the creation of Renton RFA. When Renton voters decided to establish an independent regional fire authority in 2016, Renton RFA was formed and assumed the remainder of the original contract.

In 2018, Fire District 40 sought to revisit the contract and engaged in a thorough review process to ensure it continued to meet the growing needs of the Fairwood community. Working together, our agencies were diligent in establishing an updated contract that ensures the best possible fire and life safety services for Fairwood community members and their families.

As part of this partnership, Renton RFA will continue to provide life-saving emergency medical and fire suppression services to the

Fairwood community. Additionally, Fairwood residents will continue to receive the Fire District 40 quarterly newsletter, as well as this bi-annual Renton RFA newsletter, to stay up-to-date on our activities and resources in Fairwood, as well as Renton as a whole.

"As residents of Fairwood and Fire District 40 Commissioners, we are so pleased to renew our joint commitment with Renton RFA. This partnership ensures continuity, stability, and access to first-class emergency services for our citizens for years to come."

- King County Fire District 40 Board of Commissioners

Fairwood community members will also continue to have access to the additional fire and life safety resources they have grown accustomed to, including:

- Fire and life safety public education
- CPR classes (held monthly at Fire Station 13)

- Public outreach events (held throughout Renton and Fire District 40)

"We are pleased that the King County Fire District 40 Board of Commissioners have placed their trust in Renton Regional Fire Authority for an additional 20 years. We look forward to continuing the strong partnership with Fire District 40 and the community of Fairwood."

- Fire Chief Steve Heitman

We are so grateful for the continued opportunity to serve the community members of Fairwood and extend our gratitude to the Fire District 40 Board of Commissioners for their vote of confidence in our ability to keep their community safe, healthy, and strong.



MEET YOUR FAIRWOOD FIREFIGHTERS STATION 17, SHIFT A & B



FIRE STATION 17 - A SHIFT

Left to right: Lieutenant Trujillo, Firefighter Wallace, Firefighter Clearman.



FIRE STATION 17 - B SHIFT

Left to right: Firefighter Braun, Lieutenant Hand, Firefighter Hartman. Not pictured: Engineer Stalnaker.

"One of the best things about working at Fire Station 17 is that the community is very invested in their fire department. The area is made up of mostly residential homes, and the community members are always very involved and supportive of what we do. We are proud to serve a community that is so friendly and welcoming."

- Fire Station 17, A Shift

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR MARCUS MORRELL



It is an honor to serve as the Renton Regional Fire Authority (Renton RFA) Governance Board Chair of 2022.

I was born and raised in Western Washington and settled with my family in the Renton area over 20 years ago. I also serve on the Fire District 25 Board of Commissioners. As a husband, a father, and a community representative, I have a vested interest in ensuring that we build a safe and healthy community for those who live here today, and for future generations to come.

The purpose of the Renton RFA Governance Board is to ensure that the communities we represent are heard and that the resources entrusted to Renton RFA are used earnestly to provide the highest quality of fire and life safety services possible to the communities of Renton, Fire District 25, and Fire District 40.

Having served on the Board for several years, I can confidently say that I am proud of the work being done by Renton RFA for the betterment of the community. From expanding on fire and life safety public education, to building the FDCARES program and providing crucial services to vulnerable community members, the strategic direction of the organization continues to evolve and meet the needs of our growing community.

In late 2020, I had the opportunity to be part of the hiring process for Renton RFA's newest fire chief. In 2021, Renton RFA officially welcomed Fire Chief Steve Heitman. Chief Heitman hit the ground running and has had numerous successes in just his first year, including:

- Passing Proposition 1, ensuring Renton RFA continues to receive adequate funding to maintain an exemplary level of service to the community.
- Ensuring Renton RFA was an active participant in COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts throughout the county.
- Creating a safe environment to welcome community members back to the fire stations for the most highly attended open house events in the organization's history.

With such a great team behind the organization, I am excited for what 2022 has in store for Renton RFA. I am also appreciative of the ongoing support from our community members. I look forward to continuing to serve the community as Board Chair this year. Thank you, Renton!

RENTON RFA GOVERNANCE BOARD

MARCUS MORRELL
Board Chair

RYAN MCIRVIN
Vice Chair

RUTH PÉREZ
Board Member

KERRY ABERCROMBIE
Board Member

VALERIE O'HALLORAN
Board Member

MYRON MEIKLE
Board Member

LINDA SARTNURAK
Board Member (non-voting)

RENTON RFA LEADERSHIP TEAM

STEVE HEITMAN
Fire Chief

WILL AHO
Deputy Chief of Response Operations

CHARLES DESMITH
Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services

MARK SEAVER
Deputy Chief of Support Services

ANJELA BARTON
Fire Marshal

SAMANTHA BABICH
Chief Administration Officer

A NEW FRONTIER FOR LOGISTICS

Renton RFA continually seeks improvement in all areas of our organization, and we take our stewardship of public funding very seriously. One area we have seen significant positive change in is our Logistics section.

Over the last several years, we moved from a cross-dock logistics process, in which each station would do their own inventory management and ordering, to a stocking process, where our Logistics team would house a central supply of inventory and replenish the stations on a routine basis. While the stocking process solved many logistical issues, one persistent issue was the sheer time involved in manually managing inventory for seven stations and a warehouse. This is thousands of items to track and maintain, many with unique expiry dates or maintenance needs.

Within the last year, our agency has been

able to partner with a vendor, Life Assist, to gain access to an operations management software called Operative IQ. This software contains a robust inventory management module, and thanks to our great relationship with Life Assist, we have been able to access this portion of the tool at no cost!

Operative IQ has allowed our team to save an estimated 93% of the time previously spent managing inventory levels. Additionally, the system automates key equipment and supply tasks, such as managing equipment maintenance schedules and supply expiry dates. This helps ensure costly equipment, such as chainsaws, are maintained to the highest standard and items like medical supplies are never past their best-use date. This only scratches the surface of the program's capabilities, and we are excited to utilize this system to its full capacity.

OUR NEWEST RECRUITS



◀ Recruit
Walter



Recruit ▶
Simonpietri



◀ Recruit
McIntyre

