



RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



REQUEST GRANTED

RENTON RFA WORKS TO RECEIVE GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES THAT SAVE THOUSANDS FOR LOCAL TAXPAYERS

As an organization that is supported by public funding, fiscal responsibility and maximizing our budget to provide the best possible service to the community with the funds we're entrusted are always at the forefront of our decision-making process.

Since becoming a regional fire authority in 2016, we have been able to increase staffing, establish and implement a consistent and economic replacement schedule for equipment and apparatus, strengthen our IT infrastructure and digital resources, improve processes across all of our divisions to create better efficiencies, and develop new programs that improve health and safety for our community. These developments are largely thanks to the ongoing support of our amazing community through the property tax levy and the fire benefit charge. However, this is also due in part to the efforts of our internal team, who have worked hard to secure grants that provide us funding for important resources that don't impact our budget and enable us to do even more for the community.

A grant is a fund that is given by an entity—often governmental—for use toward a specific purpose linked to a public benefit. When we receive a grant, it is because our team has identified that the specific purpose of the grant would greatly benefit the Renton community, so we go through a formal process to apply for those funds in hopes of securing them for our community.

In the last year, we have secured several grants totaling over \$100,000 of additional funding for critical fire and life safety equipment and resources. What that means for our community is that our firefighters and other public service staff have greater access to the tools and resources necessary to best serve Renton without affecting our annual



able to purchase a demonstration kitchen to use in fire safety public education training (pictured left, top).

MEDIC ONE FOUNDATION GRANT Renton RFA grant amount: \$1,202

The Medic One Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of pre-hospital emergency care and does so in a number of ways, including funding equipment, search, training, and scholarships. This grant enabled our team to purchase infant CPR manikins to improve our public safety education (pictured left, bottom).



We want to extend our gratitude to you, the Renton community, for your ongoing support of our organization. Without it, we would not be able to provide the level of service and the public programs that we do every day. We would also like to thank our great internal team for the effort they make to ensure we're good stewards of the funds we're provided by the taxpayers in our jurisdiction, and for meticulously working to secure additional resources that don't impact our budget but help us toward our vision of making Renton safer, healthier, and stronger.

budget or driving up costs to support these upgrades and additions.

Our team works meticulously to select and apply for grants that would have the most impact for our organization and our community. Some of the grants we have secured in the last year include:

SEATTLE REGION SECURING THE CITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Renton RFA grant amount: \$78,500
The Seattle Region Securing the Cities Program is a federal grant established to reduce the risk of HAZMAT threats to metropolitan regions in the US. For our part in this grant, Renton RFA is a sub-recipient in the amount of

\$78,500 to go toward the purchase of critical HAZMAT equipment. Our team will use this grant to purchase a radionuclide identification device (RIID), as well as RadEye SPRD personal radiation detectors to keep our first responders and community members safer during HAZMAT emergencies.

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT

Renton RFA grant amount: \$17,142
The Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) through FEMA and support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. Our team was

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A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF STEVE HEITMAN

This year has been amazing for our organization and exciting for our community. We welcomed new aid units, a new brush rig, and new fire engines into the organization—a project that was nearly two years in the making, with more planned to meet our strategic replacement schedule. These state-of-the-art

apparatus present improved safety and efficiency for our firefighters, which in turn provides a higher level of service and care for our community during their greatest time of need. We have begun the process of securing a location for the reconstruction of Fire Station 16 in

the Fire District 25 community. As our oldest station, this has been a need for some time. We look forward building a future-proof fire station designed to support our growing community over the next 50 years and continue to meet our ever-increasing levels of service.

I am extremely proud of the work our team has done to secure grants that provide the additional funding needed to replace, upgrade, and add new lifesaving tools and equipment to our available resources. These grants allow us to maximize our budget while extending even higher-quality education and services to the Renton community.

We welcomed three new firefighters into our ranks so far this year, and another ten recruits are gearing up to enter fire academy. Their first shift will be in January 2023. Renton continues to pursue new and different avenues of recruitment to ensure we're not only the top choice in this competitive hiring market, but that we attract a candidate pool that is as unique and diverse as our community.

In the spring of this year, we were honored by an invitation from Seattle Fire to attend their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshop. This workshop was designed to help individuals from a minority or underserved background better understand their opportunities within the fire service. It included stories and mentorship from public service members from various organizations, as well as several classes on how to go about the process of becoming

a firefighter. It was an inspiring day. So inspiring, in fact, that we jumped at the opportunity to host the next workshop right here in Renton!

On December 10, 2022, at Renton Technical College, we will host our own Diversity and Recruitment workshop. Participants will have the opportunity to hear stories from firefighters and other public service personnel from various backgrounds. They will also attend various classes to help understand the process of becoming a firefighter, and get to network and make connections with agencies throughout King County that are actively hiring. As soon as registration for this event is open, we will announce it on our website and social media, so keep an eye out!

Renton RFA believes that diversity makes our organization stronger. That each individual's unique contributions are what help shape us into the top-tier agency that we are today. When we take intentional steps forward toward diversity and inclusion, our organization improves and our community is better supported. We will continue to make strategic and intentional efforts toward diversifying our agency, and hopefully be part of the catalyst for change in the fire service as a whole. We want our community to know that no matter what your background is, if you have a passion for public service and the aptitude for firefighting, you have a home here at Renton RFA.

Thank you so much, Renton, for your ongoing support, which makes all of these exciting developments possible.

SAFETY CORNER

BY: PUBLIC EDUCATOR SARA FERGUSON

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SAFETY!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week (FPW). This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape™," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on

early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING AND PRACTICING

It is important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different. Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them!



The fall season is an excellent time each year for parents, students, and motorists to refresh themselves on several safety tips:

- **Slow down for crosswalks.** In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- **Always stop** for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- **Expect the unexpected.** When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school. Children who are arriving late for the bus may also dart into the street without looking for traffic.

- **Never pass** a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- **Consider driving conditions.** Weather and road conditions add to your stopping distance. If you're driving fast during poor conditions and a pedestrian runs into the street, it will be much more difficult to quickly stop.
- **Buckle up, phone down!** Looking away from the roadway to send a text message doubles the chance of being involved in a crash.

Visit rentonrfa.com for more safety information.

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR **MARCUS MORRELL**



As your 2022 Renton Regional Fire Authority Governance Board Chair, and a member of the board for several years, I am very proud of the strides the organization has made in serving the communities of Renton, Fire District 25, and Fire District 40. Our role as a governance board is to represent the interests of our community members and ensure that the funding provided to the organization is being used to responsibly meet the needs of our community. I believe, through our stewardship as a governance board and the efforts made the Renton RFA members, that the organization continues to meet that expectation year over year.

The last few years have presented understandable challenges for public service organizations like Renton RFA. The COVID pandemic had a significant impact. Renton firefighters and civilian members traversed increased calls for aid, PPE and equipment shortages, staffing shortages, and more. But they never wavered in their commitment to the community's health and safety.

One thing we all missed, among the many challenges of the pandemic, was the ability to perform public outreach. The ability to interface with the community to provide education and make genuine connections is an aspect of the fire service we all look forward to and appreciate. So, it brings me great joy to see the organization able to engage again.

This year marked the return of Scout Night—a great event held at Fire Station 14 in partnership with several city departments and public service organizations. Scouts of all ages were invited to attend and learn more about a variety of safety topics, including CPR, basic first aid, home fire escape planning, fire and law enforcement careers, poison prevention, and more. It was a welcome sight to see our community flood back into the fire stations.

Another great community event was Renton River Days. Renton RFA firefighters were there to provide the community with apparatus tours, fire hose lessons, and great fire safety information.

This October, the organization is once again inviting the community back for its highly anticipated open house events. Each weekend in October, two Renton fire stations will open their doors to the community. You will have the opportunity to meet many of our board members, Renton RFA leadership, and—of course—

the firefighters. Visitors will also get to tour the apparatus, spray the fire hose, and bring home great public safety information and goodies.

I am excited for the future of Renton RFA and the many more opportunities we'll have to create positive community connections.



FIRE DISTRICT 40 WELCOMES NEW AID UNIT

Renton RFA and Fire District 40 are excited to announce the arrival of a new aid unit at Fire Station 17! This state-of-the-art apparatus is charged with serving the Fairwood community and comes as part of a strategic vehicle replacement plan that has been several years in the making.

So what makes this apparatus unique? **So much!** The smaller, light-weight chassis make maneuvering this apparatus around the community much easier than its predecessor. Firefighters and patients alike benefit from this rig's superior suspension system, as it provides a much smoother ride—making it more comfortable for the patient and easier to work in for our firefighters.

Additionally, the rig's suspension lowers and raises to more easily accommodate patient loading and unloading and provide easier access

to equipment. These small but significant details help keep patients and firefighters safer throughout the transport process.

These newer aid units provide better communication through improved technology. Advances in computing have led to options that provide faster, hands-free options for firefighters. This rig boasts both improved internal electronics, as well as wireless headsets—giving crews the ability to communicate even outside the rig.

This purchase was made as a regional effort to, not only save taxpayer money by leveraging Zone 3's combined purchasing power but standardize the type of high-quality apparatus being used across the zone to strengthen processes during mutual aid events. Renton RFA and FD 40's focus is always on providing the best outcomes for our community.

MEET STATION 17 C & D SHIFT FIREFIGHTERS



C SHIFT (L-R):
Firefighter Claire O'Brien
Lieutenant Brandon Myking
[not pictured]
Engineer Jon Hollcraft



D SHIFT (L-R):
Firefighter Joseph Munden
Captain Marcus Rismiller
Firefighter Derric Matteson
[not pictured]
Engineer Brett Newell &
Firefighter Darron Erickson

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



RENTON OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

We will once again open the doors of our fire stations to welcome the community and connect on fire safety. Our open houses will take place on the following days and times:

October 15 | 9 AM - 11 AM
Fire Station 11
211 Mill Ave S, 98057

October 15 | 1 PM - 3 PM
Fire Station 12
1209 Kirkland Ave NE, 98056

October 22 | 9 AM - 11 AM
Fire Station 13
18002 108th Ave SE, 98055

October 22 | 1 PM - 3 PM
Fire Station 15
1404 N 30th St, 98056

October 29 | 9 AM - 11 AM
Fire Station 16 *(costumes encouraged)*
12923 156th Ave SE, 98059

October 29 | 1 PM - 3 PM
Fire Station 17 *(costumes encouraged)*
14810 SE Petrovitsky Rd, 98058



WOMEN IN EMS AND FIRE

Renton RFA is proud to be a long-time supporter of the Women in EMS and Fire workshop. Each year, our female firefighters volunteer their time to help teach women from around the community about the unique experience of being a woman in the fire service.

Whether you'd like you know more about the physicality of the job, the lifestyle, the balance of work and family, or anything related to a fire service career, this is a phenomenal, **FREE** opportunity to get hands-on experience and talk one on one with female veteran firefighters.

October 22 & 23 | All Day
Hosted By: South King Fire and Rescue

Register for this event at:
rentonrfa.com/fwief

Registration is free, but space is limited. Please be sure to register as soon as possible. Should the workshop fill, you will have an opportunity to join the spring workshop.



KCFCFA DIVERSITY AND RECRUITMENT WORKSHOP

Renton RFA is extremely excited to host the King County Fire Chief Association Diversity and Recruitment workshop on December 10, 2022.

This workshop is geared toward members of the BIPOC community, women, limited-English-speaking communities, or those with no prior fire service experience. The goal is to provide potential applicants with the information, mentorship, and connections they need to start a successful career with a local public service agency.

December 10 | 8 AM - 4 PM (approx.)
Hosted by: Renton RFA
Located at: Renton Technical College
3000 NE 4th Street, Renton, 98056

Registration for this event will open in October. To be notified as soon as registration opens, sign up at:
rentonrfa.com/careerinfo

This event is FREE! Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided to all attendees.

RENTON RFA GOVERNANCE BOARD

Marcus Morrell
Board Chair

Ryan McIrvine
Vice Chair

Ruth Pérez
Board Member

Kerry Abercrombie
Board Member

Valerie O'Halloran
Board Member

Myron Meikle
Board Member

Linda Sartnurak
Board Member (nonvoting)

RENTON RFA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Steve Heitman
Fire Chief

Will Aho
Deputy Chief of Response Operations

Chuck DeSmith
Deputy Chief of EMS, Health, and Safety Services

Mark Seaver
Deputy Chief of Support Services

Anjela Barton
Fire Marshal

Samantha Babich
Chief Administrative Officer

WELCOME OUR NEW RECRUITS



Robbie Perkins



Quincy McFalls



Bradley Paramapoonya



Danielle Bue



Danny Nguyen



Gerit DeBerry



Austin Marler



Jorge Guerrero



Ben Wright



Zach Wright



CPR SAVES LIVES

Visit rentonrfa.com/cpr to sign up for lifesaving CPR and first aid classes. Private classes are also available for a fee. Inquire online or send an email to cpr@rentonrfa.org.

