



# King County Fire District #40

Dedicated to the Community We Serve



WWW.FD40.COM

WINTER 2021

## Upcoming Events:

- **January 1**  
New Year's Day
- **January 14**  
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **January 18**  
Martin Luther King Jr Day Holiday
- **January 20**  
US Presidential Inauguration Day
- **February 11**  
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **February 14**  
Valentine's Day
- **February 15**  
Presidents Day
- **February 15—19**  
Mid-winter Break (Renton & Kent Schools)
- **March 11**  
Fire District 40 Board Meeting
- **March 14**  
Daylight Savings Begins
- **March 17**  
St. Patrick's Day
- **March 20**  
First Day of Spring

## SHERIFF KING COUNTY

Fire District 40 holds regular public meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the King County Sheriff's Fairwood Substation Office at 17620 140th Ave SE #C10, Renton, WA 98058.

Meetings may be held electronically due to COVID-19. Please visit [www.f40.com](http://www.f40.com) for current meeting information.

## Fairwood's Station 17



Station Captain Nathan Blakeslee

### Ever wonder what your Station 17 firefighters do all day?

Well.... there are five of them on duty at all times at the Station (3 on the Engine and 2 on the Aid Car). And there are four platoons (or shifts) that work a 24-hour day, and each platoon has either a Station Captain or a Lieutenant who's in charge.

Their shifts are filled by:

- **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** This is a firefighter's main job - to help us when we need them.
- **TRAINING:** Because they never know what kind of emergency they will respond to, firefighters must be prepared for everything. Therefore, they spend an average of four hours each day in training classes or drills.
- **EXERCISE:** A firefighter's job requires a lot of physical agility, and they must exercise daily so they don't hurt themselves on the job. They spend approximately an hour each day on the treadmill, stair-climber, lifting weights, etc.
- **EQUIPMENT CHECKS:** They spend many hours each day making sure each piece of emergency

equipment is working properly so it's ready when needed.

- **CLEANING:** There is no maid service at the fire station, so the firefighters mop the floors, wash the trucks, do minor repairs, and even take out the garbage.
  - **COOKING:** Of course they have to eat while on duty at the station, so everybody takes their turn cooking.... And what great cooks they are.
  - **SHOPPING:** Because they have to be ready to respond to emergencies at all times, if one firefighter needs something at the grocery store, they all must go.
- And that's what your Station 17 firefighters do all day!**

## COVID-19 vs The Flu

**FLU SEASON** is expected to start soon in Washington State. If you don't normally get a flu vaccination each year, this would be a good year to start.

The flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses.

The flu is caused by a variety of influenza viruses, which often mutate into new strains, causing significant differences in the severity of illness and number of deaths experienced each year.

Because COVID-19 and the flu initially present similar signs and symptoms, many people have assumed that COVID-19 is "just a

new type of flu." This is not true.

COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new type of coronavirus, which is not part of the "influenza family." And as we learn more about COVID-19, we are finding that the impact of this new disease on individuals is potentially much more serious.

With a Coronavirus vaccine on its way, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) encourages all Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19 because it will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you,

particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

If a person has flu-like symptoms (which could mimic COVID-19 symptoms) with the following warning signs, contact your physician or consider calling 9-1-1:

- Difficulty breathing or feeling short of breath
- Severe headache or stiff neck
- Sudden dizziness, confusion or trouble staying awake
- Signs of dehydration (very dry mouth or no urination in more than 8 hours)
- Children who are difficult to arouse, not interacting, or who are irritable when being held
- Babies younger than 3 months with a high fever or any fever lasting more than 5 days



*If you can't call 911 during an emergency, you have the option to text.*

*While texting is an option, residents should still call if they can. The current system only accepts messages in English, and dispatchers also can't receive photos, videos or emojis.*

*Your Station 17 is staffed 24 hours each day and responds to 911 emergencies. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions it is temporarily closed to the public.*

Cedar River Water & Sewer	425-255-6370
Century Link	800-491-0118
Comcast Cable (XFINITY)	888-266-2278
Fairwood Library	425-226-0522
<b>King County Fire District 40 (office)</b>	<b>425-225-0931</b>
King County Sheriff's Office	206-296-1311
Metro (Hazardous Waste)	206-684-1233
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Puget Sound Energy (Gas & Electricity)	800-321-4123
Puget Sound Energy (Street Lights)	888-225-5773
Republic Services/Allied Waste	206-682-0735
Renton Regional Fire Authority (office)	425-276-9500
Securitas (Fairwood Greens)	425-221-8170
Waste Management	800-592-9995

For up-to-date COVID-19 information please visit: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov>



King County Fire District 40  
14810 SE Petrovitsky Road  
Renton, WA 98058

## Laughter is the Best Medicine... A Farewell to 2020

Coronavirus jokes are spreading (almost) as fast as the actual COVID-19. In the age of the coronavirus, it's easy to feel out of sorts and disconnected. Whether the topic is home schooling, social distancing, or toilet paper hording, there's a playful way to look at life that can maybe make you laugh. So take a few minutes to step away and enjoy a few more "funnies" that we thought you may like. Just remember to wash your hands first!

- Feeling guilty about your kids watching too much TV? Just mute it and put the subtitles on. BOOM. Now they're reading!
- I'm not adding this year to my age, I did not use it!
- Day 1 of quarantine: I'm going to take this as an opportunity to improve my health. Day 2 of quarantine: Due to personal reasons, I am eating a lasagna in my shower.
- Home schooling update: My child just said, "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year."
- The year 2020 can only be described like looking both ways before crossing the street, and then getting hit by an airplane.
- So I got pulled over in the HOV lane and when the cop asked where my passenger was, I told him "due to social distancing, he's in the car behind me!"
- Before I agree to 2021, I need to see some terms and conditions!

