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NEWSLETTER

KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2 SAVING LIVES AND PROPERTY
SERVING THE CITIES OF BURIEN AND NORMANDY PARK

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

VIEW FROM THE CORNER OFFICE | MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Greetings. It is hard to believe as I write to you we find ourselves halfway through 2026. I am proud to report that your fire department is on budget and making great strides with our strategic plan. As we have reported in our strategic plan and our annual report (both available on our website at www.burienfire.org) our mission is to provide value to our communities through excellent fire and emergency services. We are accomplishing this mission by hiring great employees to serve you in your time of need, freeing up vital resources by linking non-emergent calls to additional services through our CARES team, and being constantly vigilant with our use of your tax dollars.

Over the past few decades the support we have received from the community has allowed us to thrive as your fire department. In the 20+ years I have been serving our community I have witnessed the call volume increase from almost 4,000 calls to more than 13,000 calls annually. This increase required more staffing and for efficiency purposes, led to a functional consolidation with the North Highline Fire Department following the annexation of unincorporated areas by the City of Burien. This growth almost doubled the amount of our line personnel while maintaining the same number of administrative staff positions.

Since the 2019 consolidation, we have continued to grow. In 2025, in response to call volume, we again added personnel to staff an additional aid car in the northern part of our response area. As we actively plan for the future we recognize the need to add administrative support staff, develop a Capital facilities plan which includes the replacement of a 71 year old fire station, and balance the needs of the public and our personnel while maintaining a sensitivity to the financial impact on our communities.

It is not only our purpose, but our honor to serve you. As we continue to move towards the future we will strive to provide you the best services from highly skilled professionals. We thank you for your long-standing support as we work to ensure we meet your needs.

OUR FIREFIGHTING TEAM

RECRUITMENT AND EXCELLENCE

The best learn from the best at KING2 as we continue to grow to meet the needs of the community.

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A NEW ERA OF

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

KING2's original Children's Fire Safety House was constructed in 1994 and has been a valuable resource for educating youngsters about fire safety.

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CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

LOCAL LEGACY

KING2 has a long history of serving our community—not only by responding to emergencies, but also by supporting our neighbors through public education, outreach programs, and community events.

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BUILDING THE FUTURE OF FIREFIGHTING: RECRUITMENT AND EXCELLENCE AT KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2

King County Fire District #2 (KING2) faces a competitive hiring landscape driven by high retirement rates of experienced firefighters and the scale of hiring by larger departments in the area. To maintain its high standard of service for communities like Burien, Normandy Park, and North Highline, the district heavily prioritizes rigorous recruitment, thorough training, and internal mentorship.

July 7, 2026 - New Recruit Academy Graduates join the KING 2 Team

RIGOROUS SELECTION

Out of more than 700 applicants, only a select few progress through written tests, KING2's coveted conversational panel interviews, and Chief Officer interviews to secure a position.

EXTENSIVE TRAINING

Newly hired recruits undergo a two-week in-house preparatory academy before attending the 22-week regional South King County Fire Training Consortium (SKCFTC) Academy. The new firefighters then must complete an 18-month probationary period and a rigorous 36-month Apprenticeship Program.

CONTINUOUS MENTORSHIP

Education continues post-graduation, with senior firefighters mentoring new members to preserve department knowledge and traditions.

Despite its smaller size, KING2 has earned a regional reputation for excellence and firefighter development. Its high quality of care has even earned the department a spot in specialized medical trials with Harborview Medical Center, helping shape future regional patient care protocols.

CALL TRACKER

	2024	2025	2026 YEAR TO DATE
TOTAL	13,152	12,570	8,049
STATION 18	3,161	3,089	2,124
STATION 19	2,828	2,777	1,654
STATION 28	5,209	4,768	3,177
STATION 29	1,954	1,936	1,094

A NEW ERA OF FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION IS HERE

UPGRADED AND INTERACTIVE

After more than 30 years of dedicated service, the beloved Children's Fire Safety House is getting a major upgrade!

The original Safety House was built in 1994 at the Sea-Tac Occupational Skills Center on a repurposed car-hauler trailer. Thanks to the generosity of local community service clubs, businesses, and residents, donated materials and community fundraising made this invaluable educational resource possible. For over three decades, it has helped thousands of children learn life-saving fire safety skills.

The impact continues to be remarkable. In October 2025, the Children's Fire Safety House visited 10 Highline School District elementary schools and four private schools, teaching more than 1,700 kindergarten and second-grade students about fire safety. The program emphasizes the importance of having a home escape plan and practicing it regularly. The Safety House has also become a favorite attraction at our annual Kids' Day Open House, where nearly 800 children practiced home escape drills during last year's event.

We are excited to announce that on June 1, 2026, KING2 took delivery of a brand-new Children's Fire Safety House that will continue this important mission for years to come!

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NEW SAFETY HOUSE FEATURES

- Two interactive classrooms for fire safety instruction
- A simulated fire environment where students identify hazards and choose safe escape routes
- Heated doors to teach kids how to check for fire conditions on the opposite side of closed doors
- An emergency egress window for practicing alternate escape routes when primary exits are blocked
- Hands-on experiences that help children build confidence and prepare for real-life emergencies

These realistic, age-appropriate scenarios teach students the importance of Exit Drills in The Home (E.D.I.T.H.) and provide a safe environment to practice critical decision-making skills before an emergency ever occurs.

LOCAL CONNECTION

CELEBRATING 39 YEARS OF HOLIDAY OUTREACH

2026 will be the **39th** year of our annual Holiday Outreach Program—a tradition of compassion and community that continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of local families.

This program is made possible year after year thanks to the incredible generosity of our community members, service clubs, local businesses, and dedicated volunteers. Their support has allowed us to bring hope and holiday cheer to families who need it most.

Each year, we receive a list of nominated families through the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Last Christmas, we were honored to serve **22 families**, delivering everything they needed to enjoy a memorable holiday. Each family received Fred Meyer gift cards, non-perishable pantry items donated by Grocery Outlet, toys for every child (and the family), and all the ingredients for a festive holiday meal complete with pumpkin pies.

One of the highlights of delivery day is the arrival of Santa. For many years, **John and Jon** have generously volunteered their time, spreading joy and creating unforgettable memories with their warm smiles and holiday spirit.

We are also deeply grateful to the **Exchange Club of Highline**, whose partnership has been instrumental since the program's beginning. Their members continue to donate funds, pack food boxes, and assist with deliveries each year. Last year, we also had members of the **Highline High School Drill Team** join us for delivery day.

A special thank you goes to **Matthew Gau**, Operations Manager for **Tri-Med Ambulance**. Since 2020, Matthew and the Tri-Med team have become invaluable partners. In addition to purchasing toys for the program, Tri-Med generously provides two ambulances and volunteer drivers to help deliver gifts and meals to families.

As we celebrate nearly four decades of Holiday Outreach, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported this program over the years. Whether you have donated, volunteered, or helped in any way, your kindness has brought comfort, joy, and hope to countless families during the holiday season.

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LOCAL CONNECTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

KIDS DAY - SEPTMEBER 12TH

KING2's annual Kids' Day event has been a long-standing community favorite since the early 90's. Families attend this popular event for the great fun, interactive games and amazing demonstrations put on by the dedicated firefighters of KING2.

The event is in partnership with local businesses such as Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Ivar's, Emerald City Smoothie and Burien Animal Control/CARES - who all donate and volunteer their time, as well as neighboring agencies who provide displays and information about their organization's services. Agencies such as KCSO, Port of Seattle Fire, US Coast Guard and our biggest long-standing donor, Tri-Med Ambulance.

Demonstrations and entertainment are always a hit at the Kids' Day event. Past years have included face painters, NW School of Karate demonstrations, visits from Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey Bear.

Activities include a scavenger hunt, bike raffle, a chance to get the fire Chief wet at the dunk tank, and everyone's favorite - the demo's put on by the crews.

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

We are excited to announce that on June 1, 2026, KING2 took delivery of a brand-new Children's Fire Safety House that will continue this important mission for years to come!

Built by Mobile Concepts Specialty Vehicles, the custom-designed 31-foot trailer was purchased through the District's general budget and features enhanced educational opportunities for students and community members alike.

Join us as we unveil the new Children's Fire Safety House at **Kids' Day** on Saturday, **September 12, 2026**.