



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 20, 2026

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Future of Fife fire station under discussion by board
Residents invited to stay informed and attend board meetings

FIFE, Wash. – When emergencies happen in Fife and nearby neighborhoods, residents often see Tacoma Fire Department crews responding. Those responses are made possible through Pierce County Fire District 10, the local fire district that serves the city of Fife and surrounding unincorporated areas.

Through Pierce County Fire District 10's contract with the Tacoma Fire Department, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics respond to an average of about 2,600 emergency calls each year, approximately 80 percent of which are medical emergencies.

The partnership gives residents access to additional firefighters, paramedics, emergency apparatus and specialized response teams for incidents such as water rescues, hazardous materials and fire investigations.

Under its agreement with Tacoma Fire, Pierce County Fire District 10 is responsible for providing and maintaining the fire station. The board is now discussing the future of that facility, including whether to ask voters to approve a bond in August 2026 to fund land and construction for a replacement station. No decision has been made.

The current station, in service since 1955, is past its usable life and was not designed for modern fire apparatus or today's firefighter health and safety standards. The building is not earthquake resistant, sleeping quarters are located far from emergency apparatus, and the apparatus bays are too small to accommodate modern fire engines.

Health and safety concerns are also part of the discussion. The Tacoma Fire Department has experienced three job-related cancer deaths in the past five years, and the diesel exhaust system and decontamination facilities at Pierce County Fire District 10's station do not meet modern standards intended to reduce firefighters' exposure to carcinogens.

"Fire stations are just as critical to emergency response as firefighters and engines," said Retired Deputy Chief Jeff Jensen. "The building has to support modern equipment and protect firefighter health and safety so crews can respond quickly and safely when the community calls for help."

Emergency services in Washington are funded through property-tax levies. Pierce

County Fire District 10's levies — \$0.78 for fire and \$0.27 for EMS per \$1,000 of assessed property value — are below the state maximum allowed by law. The district operates with a balanced budget, carries no debt and has maintained clean state audits for more than 25 years.

District leaders encourage residents to stay informed and participate in the discussion by attending public board meetings. The Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at Station 12, located at 2015 54th Ave E in Fife.

Residents can also stay informed by visiting pcfd10.org or following Pierce County Fire District 10 on Facebook at @pcfd10, where the district shares information about emergency services, fire prevention and safety, and more.

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Pierce County Fire District 10 serves the city of Fife and nearby unincorporated areas such as Fife Heights. Through a partnership with the Tacoma Fire Department, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics respond to approximately 2,600 emergency calls each year—80% of which are medical emergencies. Visit pcfd10.org for more information.