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Outdated Fife fire station creates challenges for firefighters
Pierce County Fire District 10 asks voters for replacement station bond

FIFE, Wash. – Firefighters serving the Fife community respond to approximately 2,600 emergency calls each year, but the station they operate from was built in 1955 and was not designed for the demands of modern emergency response.

While the community often sees Tacoma Fire apparatus responding to emergencies, Pierce County Fire District 10 is responsible for providing and maintaining the fire station those crews operate from under the district's contract with Tacoma.

District leaders say several features of the current station create operational challenges for firefighters and can affect response efficiency. Sleeping quarters are located far from emergency apparatus, requiring firefighters to travel farther within the building before responding to calls. Apparatus bays were built for fire engines of a different era and no longer accommodate modern emergency vehicles as efficiently as newer stations.

The facility also lacks features that have become standard in modern fire stations. Its outdated diesel exhaust removal system and lack of modern decontamination areas increase firefighters' exposure to carcinogens. The station is also not designed to remain fully operational following a major earthquake.

"The current station has served the community well, but it was built for a very different era of firefighting," said Deputy Chief Jeff Jensen (Ret.). "Today's fire stations are designed to support faster response, protect firefighter health and safety, and continue operating during disasters."

To address those concerns, the Pierce County Fire District 10 Board of Fire Commissioners has placed a bond measure on the August 4, 2026 ballot. If approved by voters, the bond would fund the purchase of land and construction of a replacement fire station designed to meet modern emergency-response standards.

The estimated cost of the proposed bond is \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For a home assessed at \$600,000, which is considered close to average for the area, that would equal approximately \$168 per year, or about \$14 per month.

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

County Fire District 10 currently collects \$0.78 for fire services and \$0.27 for emergency medical services per \$1,000 of assessed property value, both below the maximum rates allowed under state law. The district operates with a balanced budget, carries no debt and has maintained clean state audits for more than 25 years.

Residents can learn more about the proposed project at pcfd10.org/station-project or by following Pierce County Fire District 10 on Facebook at [@pcfd10](https://www.facebook.com/pcfd10).

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Pierce County Fire District 10 serves the city of Fife and the unincorporated area of 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.