

# Table of Contents

November 21, 2019 – Station Tours

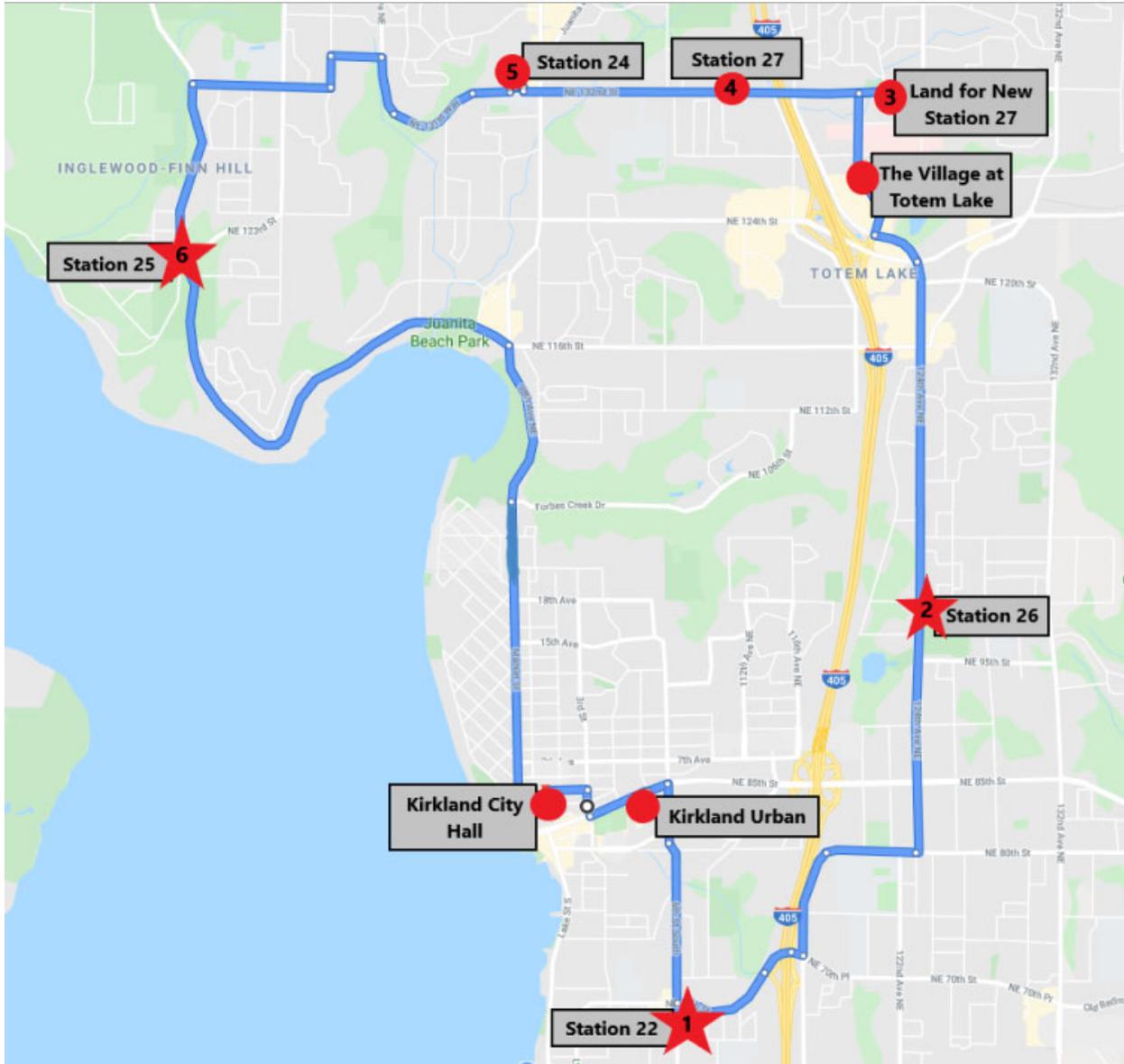
**Meeting Agenda.....2**  
**Map of Travel Route .....3**  
**Tour Itinerary and Details.....4**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP**  
**November 21, 2019**  
**6:00 pm to 9:30 pm**  
**Kirkland City Hall Council Chambers**

- 6:00 Dinner
- 6:10 Agenda Overview -- Marilynne Beard, Facilitator
- 6:25 Board Bus for Fire Station Tour
- 6:45 Station 22 – Houghton
- 7:30 Station 26 – North Rose Hill
- 8:00 Driving Tour of Potential New Station 27 Site, Existing Station 27, and New Station 24 Site
- 8:30 Station 25 – Finn Hill
- 9:15 Return to City Hall
- 9:30 Adjourn

# Station Tour Travel Route: Thursday, November 21 6:30-9:30pm

Begin at Kirkland City Hall: 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033



Stop and disembark



Point of interest as we drive.



Point of interest with a quick stop, not disembarking.

## Itinerary of Station Tours: Thursday, November 21 6:30-9:30pm

**6:30pm** Leave Kirkland City Hall

123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033

**Departure from City Hall North parking lot**

**6:45pm** 1st STOP: Fire Station 22

6602 108th Ave NE

**Arrive at Station 22 for approximately a 30 minute tour**

**Station 22:**

Fire Station 22 was funded through a 1978 voter-approved bond for \$790,000 and entered service in 1980.

- Proposed renovations consist of a seismic retrofit, mechanical, HVAC, plumbing, health and safety, and code requirement upgrades.
- Between an \$8.8-10.7M dollars.

**Points of interest within Station 22:**

- Apparatus Bays (Fire Engines)
- Kitchen/Living Room/Public Meeting Space (Ladder Trucks)
- Crew quarters (Watercrafts)
- Workout room (Aid Cars)

**7:15pm** Leave Station 22

**7:30pm** 2nd STOP: Fire Station 26

9930 124th Ave NE

**Arrive at Fire Station 26 for approximately a 30 minute tour**

**Station 26:**

Station 26 was built in 1994 through a voter approved bond of \$4.8M that also allowed the City to construct Station 21. Only station East of I-405

- Proposed renovations consist of a seismic retrofit, mechanical, HVAC, plumbing, health and safety, and code requirement upgrades.
- Between an \$7.8-9.5M dollars.

**Points of interest within Station 26:**

- Apparatus bay/Workout Room (Fire Engines)
- Kitchen/Living Area (Ladder Trucks)
- Crew quarters (Watercrafts)

- Public Space/Office Area (Aid Cars)

**8:00pm** Leave Station 26

### 3RD STOP: Potential Location for New Station 27

Kirkland Physical Therapy, Inc., 13118 121st Way NE #201

#### **Station 27 Potential Site:**

We will NOT disembark at this stop.

- Council purchased land through an interfund loan.
- Estimated cost of new station is between \$19.2-23.4M dollars.
- Evergreen Hospital across the street.
- Response time improvements to North Kingsgate
- Second station East of I-405.



### 4TH STOP: Fire Station 27

11210 NE 132nd St

We will NOT disembark at this stop.

- Both this station and station 25 were funded by a voter approved bond in 1972 for \$545,000
- Looking to renovate and use as a logistics center
- Estimated cost of that renovation is \$750,000 (2026 dollars) and construction would be considered in 2026.
- Accommodates:
  - Fuel Station

- PPE repair room
- Apparatus storage

### 5TH STOP: Fire Station 24

9820 NE 132nd St

We will NOT disembark at this stop.

- Council spent 5 years setting aside approximately \$20M to purchase the land and construct a new station.
- Construction begins Spring 2020.
- Improved response times throughout the City.
- Potential for training Building and props.



### 8:30pm 6<sup>TH</sup> STOP: Fire Station 25

**Arrive at Fire Station 25 for approximately a 30 minute tour**

#### **Station 25:**

Originally, both this station and station 27 were funded by a voter approved bond in 1972 for \$545,000. Station 25 was renovated (completed in 2018) for \$3.7 million. Station 25 was 43 years old at time of renovation.

- Project consisted of a seismic retrofit, mechanical, HVAC, plumbing upgrades to more efficient systems.
- The seismic upgrades ensure the station remains operational after a major seismic event.

**Points of interest within the station:**

- **Apparatus Bay (Fire Engines)**
  - Added required firefighter health and safety systems:
  - Improved efficiency and livability of the station
- **Kitchen (Ladder Trucks)**
  - Enlarged the kitchen
  - Space for more personnel than currently staffed
- **Crew Quarters (Watercrafts)**
  - Design of station to accommodate five personnel for future City growth
  - Added a bedroom
  - Single occupant shower/bathrooms
  - Modernized the space
  - Added upstairs living space
  - Provided work spaces and emergency radio work area
  - Modernized the alerting system
  - Added nighttime pathway lighting
- **Workout Room/Work Space (Aid Cars)**
  - Windows to workout area (safer)
  - Door exiting outside

**9:00pm** Leave Station 25

9:15 pm Return to City Hall

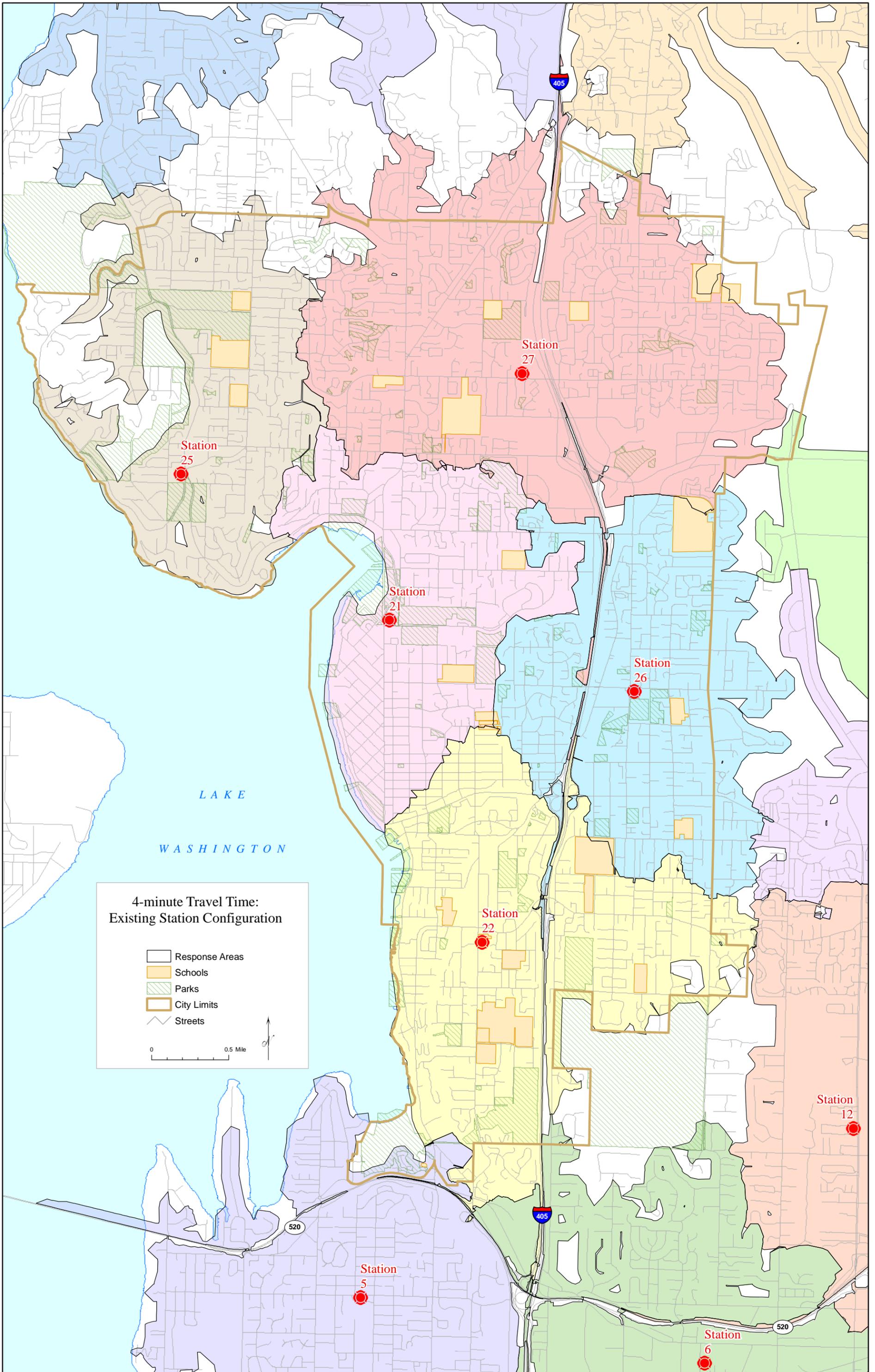
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033

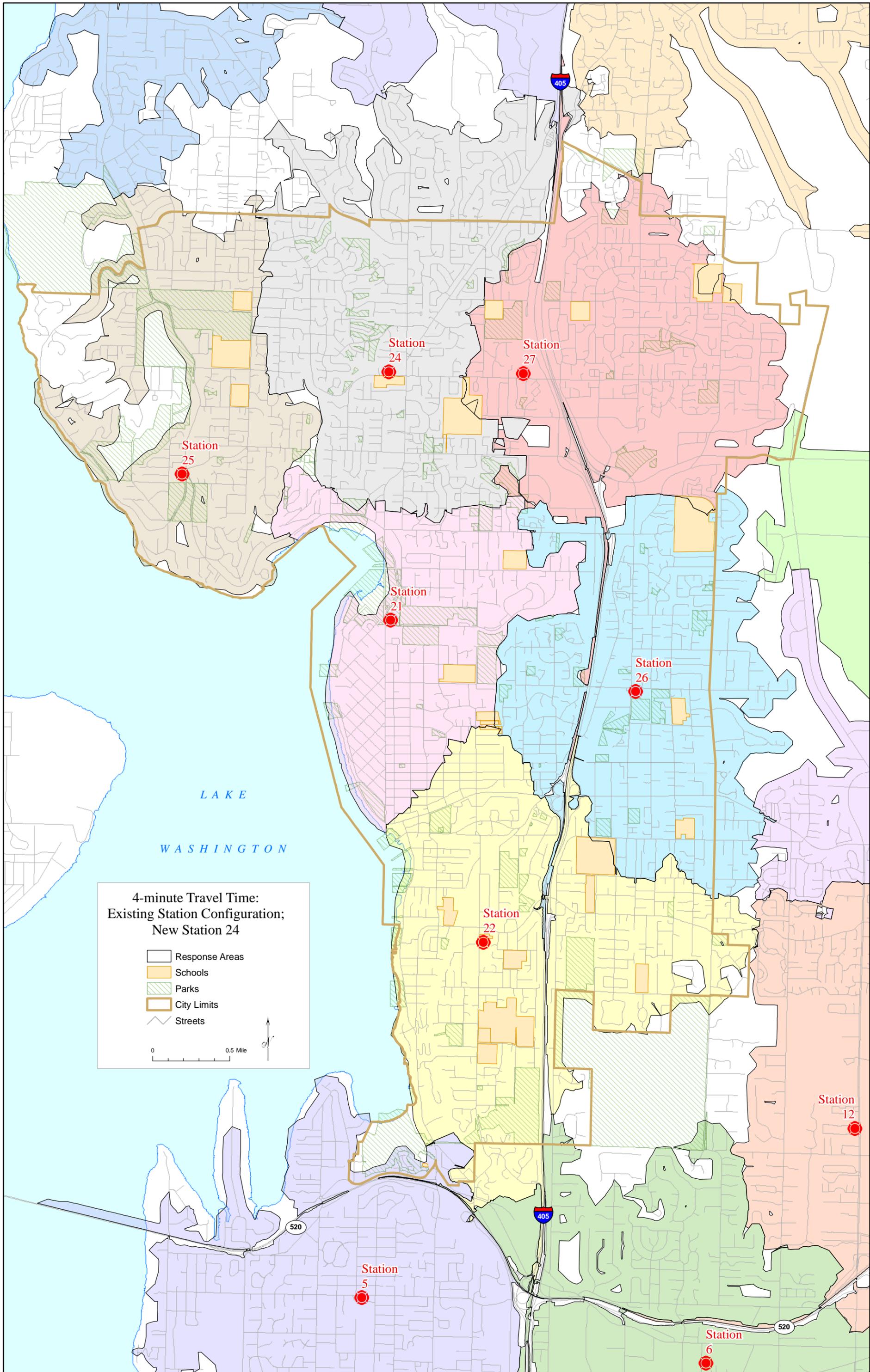
**Return to City Hall North parking lot no later than 9:30pm**

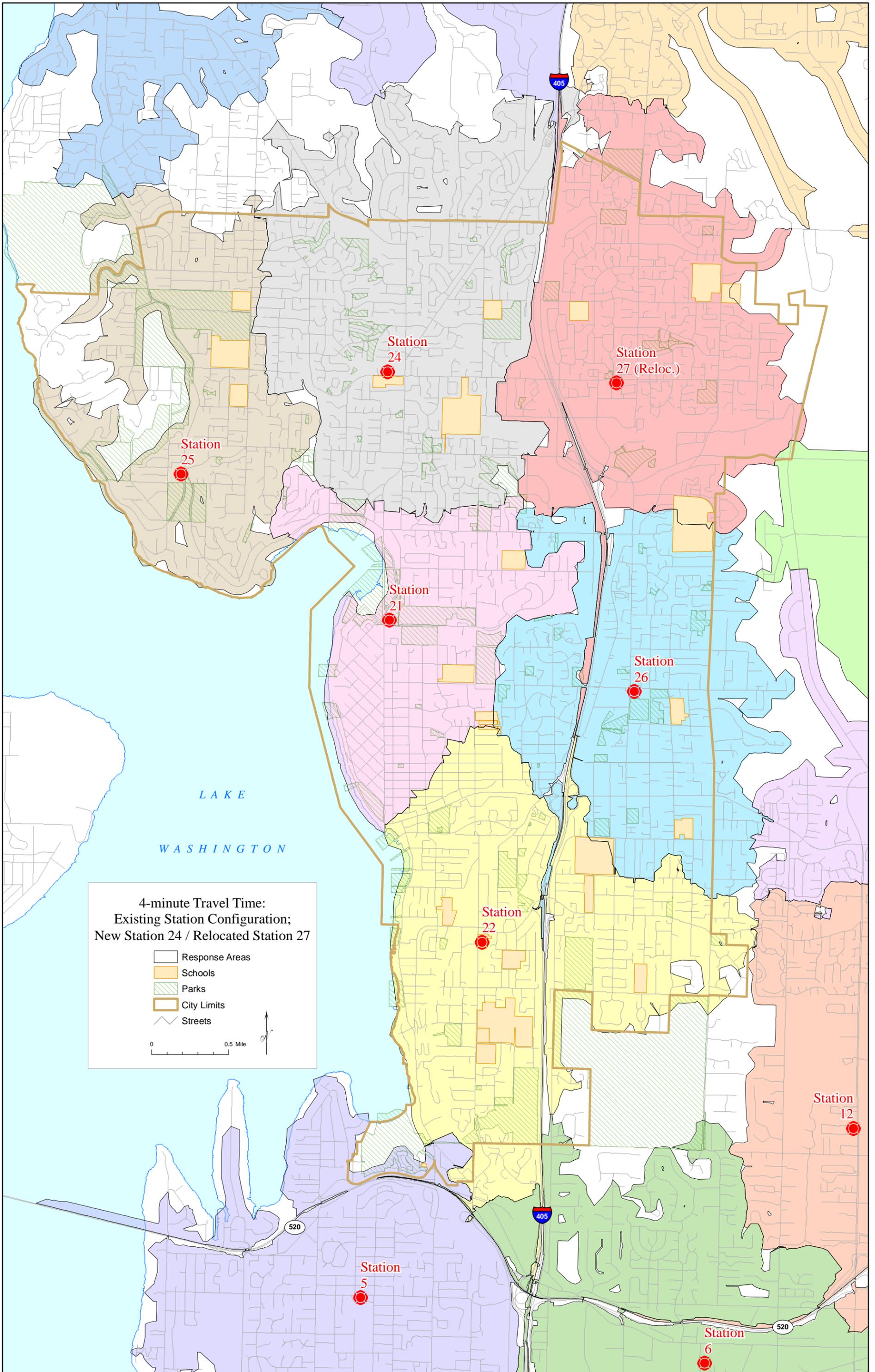
# Table of Contents

## Additional Materials

<b>Maps .....</b>	<b>2</b>
City of Kirkland Fire Response Coverage – Today	
City of Kirkland Fire Response Coverage – With Station 24	
City of Kirkland Fire Response Coverage – With Station 27 East of I-405	
<b>November 7, 2019 Station Waiver .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Definitions .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Wordle .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>October 29th Small Group Questions.....</b>	<b>8</b>







## Definitions

**Aid Car/Aid Unit** - Fire Department emergency medical services unit staffed with Kirkland Firefighters. Used to provide basic life support treatment and transport services.

**Advanced Life Support (ALS)** - Paramedic services provided primary by Redmond Fire Department. Paramedics have greater training and capabilities than EMTs.

**Ambulance** - Transport units for stable patients to area hospitals. Ambulances are operated by private companies, Americanisms Medical Response (AMR), Tri-Med and Faulk Ambulance.

**Automatic Aid** - Fire Department units are dispatched to an emergency in neighboring/adjoining jurisdictions without regard to jurisdictional boundaries. The closest unit responds to the call regardless of where it is located.

**Backdraft** - A phenomenon in which a fire that has consumed all available oxygen, appears to have burned out then suddenly explodes when more oxygen is made available, typically because a door or window has been opened introducing oxygen.

**Basic Life Support (BLS)** - Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) provide initial care and transport of patient with non-life threatening illness or injury.

**Battalion Chief** - Ranking officer responsible for a shift or division within KFD. Battalion Chiefs assigned to shift supervise the activities of all fire stations or fire companies.

**Companies** - Sometimes referred to as "crews." Common KFD terminology for a group of Firefighters assigned to work as a team.

**Competency Based Training (CBT)** - Training model utilized by Kirkland Firefighters to maintain their Emergency Medical Technician certifications.

**Cross Staffing** - A deployment model where crews (jump crews) staff multiple apparatus types. Today at KFD, crews cross staff engines and our ladder with aid cars.

**Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)** - Certified by Washington State Department of Health, Kirkland Firefighters are EMT and can provide care and treatment for injured or ill patients. EMT can administer Epinephrine, Narcan and utilize defibrillation units in cardiac arrest situation.

**Fire Engine** - A fire department vehicle that carries water and fire hose. Utilized for fire suppression, but may also provide medical services, respond to motor vehicles accidents and general public assistance requests.

**Flashover** - When certain organic materials are heated, they undergo thermal decomposition and release flammable gases. Flashover occurs when most of the exposed surfaces in a space are heated to their autoignition temperature, emit flammable gases and then ignite.

**Intervention time** - Time when unit arriving at the scene engage to stop the emergency. For EMS calls normally expressed as “patient contact”. For fire responses, this time is when extinguishing agent (water) is applied to the fire.

**Jump Crew** - A three-person crew assigned to a fire station housing multiple unit. Jump crews respond in the unit dispatched based on the nature of the call. Same as Cross Staffing.

**Ladder Truck** - A fire department vehicle that carries extension ladders, rescue equipment and has a hydraulic ladder.

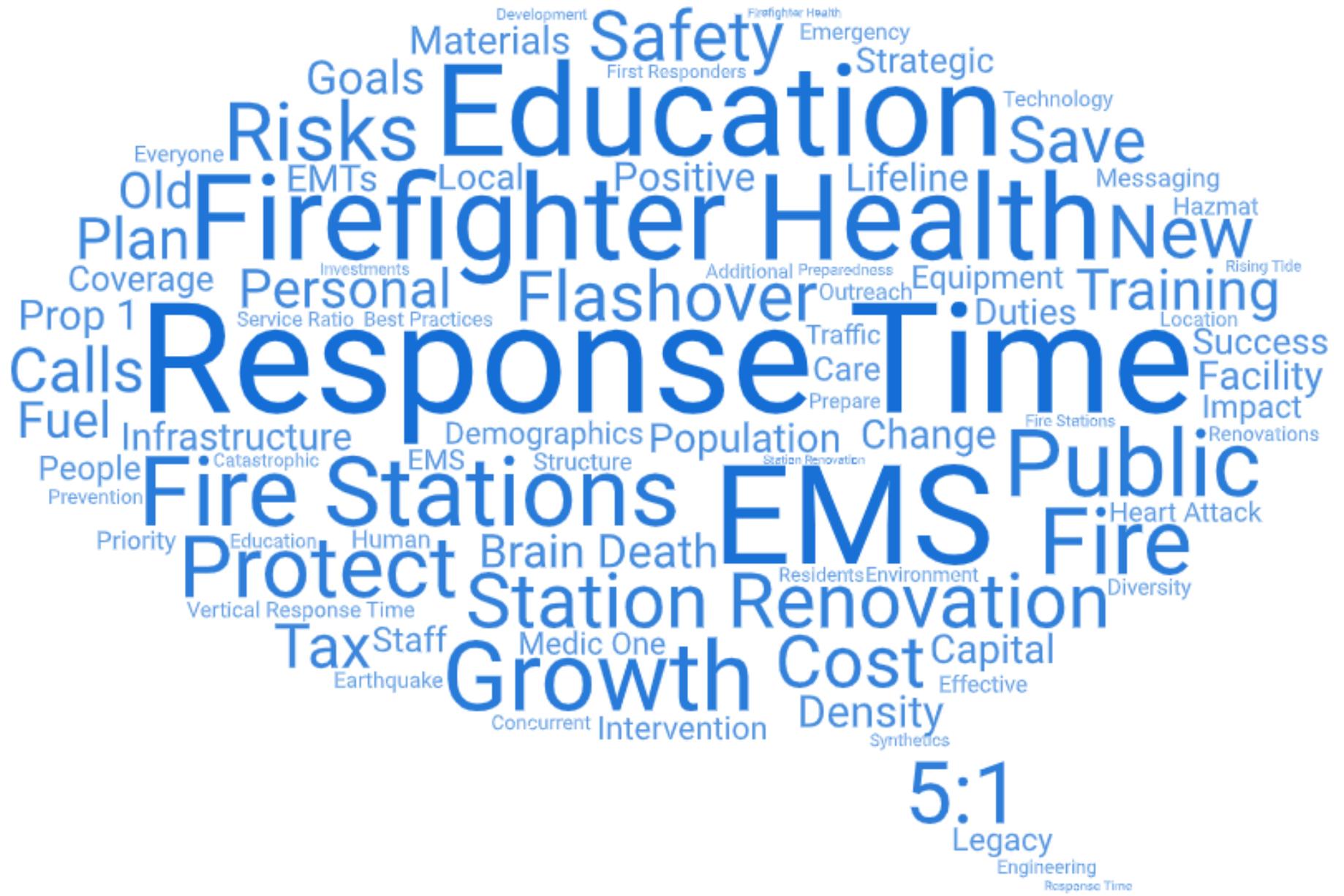
**Northeast King County Regional Public Safety Communications Agency (NORCOM)** - The 911/dispatch center for Kirkland Police and Kirkland Fire Department.

**Paramedic/Medic** – In addition to what EMT’s are licensed to do, Medics provide IV fluid therapy, advance airway management through intubation and drug intervention therapies for heart attack, stroke, diabetes and other medical emergencies.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - A device worn by firefighters, to provide breathable air in an *immediately dangerous to life or health* atmosphere (IDLH).

**Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB)** - Third party source of property underwriting and rating information for the insurance industry. WSRB rates fire departments performance on a 1-10 scale. Kirkland is currently related as a class four fire department.

**Zone 1** - Counties in the State of Washington are divided into “zones” as part of the state-wide fire protection plan. Kirkland is one of nine Zone 1 departments in King County.



**COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM OCTOBER 29, 2019**

**Fire Department Operations and Level of Service**

**1. Why is there a steep incline in the last couple years on the calls for service graph?**

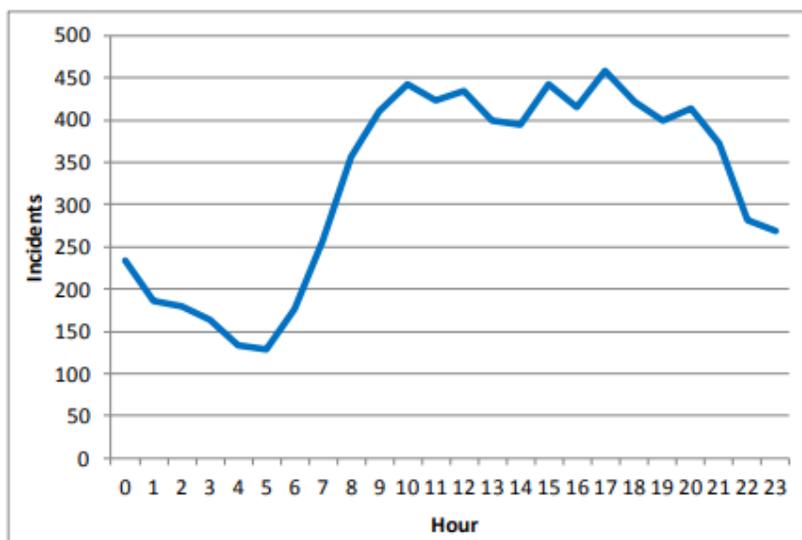
The bar chart showing the trend in calls for service is shown in ten-year increments. The higher than average increase in calls beginning just after 2010 was due to the annexation of the Finn Hill, Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods. Although the Kirkland Fire Department already served what was Fire District 41 (primarily in Finn Hill and Juanita), Kirkland assumed a portion of the Woodinville Fire and Life Safety service area located in the Kingsgate neighborhood. Woodinville fire had previously operated Station 34 located just east of the Kingsgate shopping center. They made the decision to close Station 34 leaving the area to be served by the Kirkland Fire Department.

**2. Are there more people in Kirkland at night/day? What are the statistics on peak call times?**

There are more people in Kirkland at night according to City-Data.com. Approximately 6,000 more people leave Kirkland to commute to work than commute into Kirkland. The peak hours of call volume is 0900-2100 (9am-9pm).

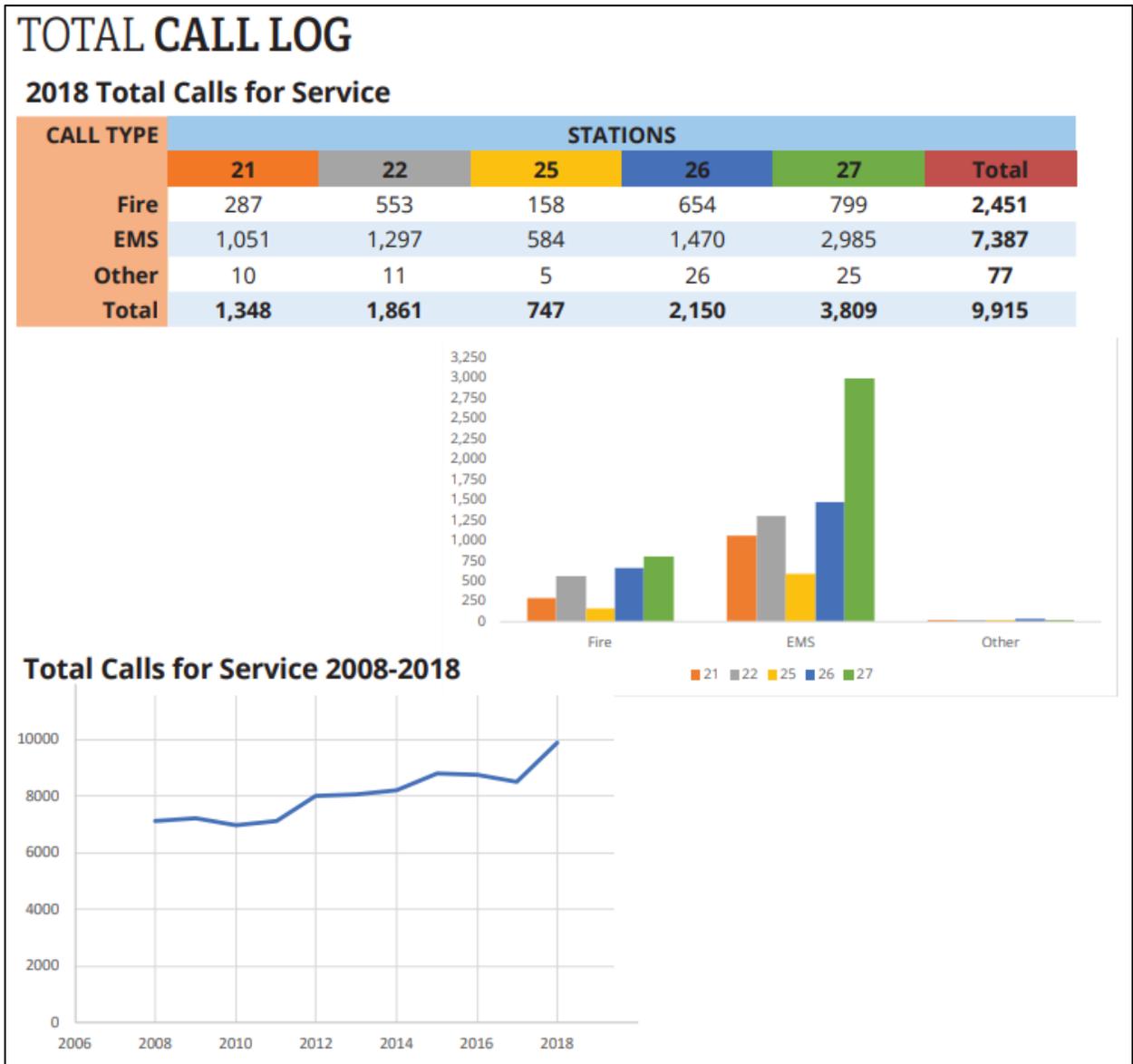
The time analysis that always shows significant variation is response activity by hour of day. Response workload directly correlates with the activity of people, with workload increasing during daytime hours and decreasing during nighttime hours as shown in the following figure. Incident activity is at its highest between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

**Figure 39: Hourly Workload – Study Period**



**3. What is a typical call volume per day in the City? For one station?**

The number of calls for service can vary significantly. Stations that are in high density areas or areas that have populations that generate more calls for service will have a higher call volume. For instance, Station 27 located on NE 132<sup>nd</sup> Street serves a large area, with multi-family housing and a concentration of assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Station 25 located on Finn Hill experiences fewer calls for service. Their service area is large but consists primarily of single-family houses. The chart below shows the number of calls for service for each of the fire stations.



**4. What is the most calls you have ever gotten in a day?**

During severe snow and ice storms, we have had over 100 calls for service in a day.

**5. How many times are there concurrent calls?**

Approximately 30 percent of the time, city wide.

**6. How many fires are there in Kirkland on average?**

We average 40 fires, of varying severity, annually.

**7. How often does the City review response time data?**

Fire Department leadership reports data to the City Council quarterly. The department also reports response data to the State and Federal government annually.

**8. Why is it not a 3-minute response time?**

KFD could establish shorter/quicker responses times. Shorter responses times would drive the need for more fire stations, apparatus and firefighters

**9. What is the coverage for advanced life support in Kirkland? When are they dispatched?**

The City of Kirkland receives paramedic services, also known as Advanced Life Support (ALS), from the Bellevue, Redmond, and Shoreline Fire Departments. In the event of a major incident, Kirkland could also receive paramedic assistance from across the region, including from the City of Seattle and/or South King County. One Redmond paramedic unit, M123, is housed at Evergreen Health Medical Center and is frequently dispatched to calls in Kirkland. However, calls requiring paramedic responses will receive service from the closest available paramedic unit.

**10. Does the City want to have its own ALS**

Under the King County system an agency has to apply. Kirkland has applied in the past but the County has continued to support ALS service into Kirkland through the Redmond Fire Department.

**11. If there is a large fire or emergency do off-duty officers come in to help?**

Generally, we pull in firefighters and officers from nearby departments who are on-duty and ready to respond. If we have an event that requires a high level of firefighters, we draw from Seattle, Snohomish County and South King County. So far, that has supplied us with needed resources. We do have the ability to callback firefighters on overtime in a disaster situation.

**12. Do officers respond to their local station if there is a big emergency even if it is out of their jurisdiction?**

No. But it is a conversation that is currently taking place among fire departments in the region. The State Emergency Operations Center has been discussing that very issue.

**13. Do you frequently experience language barriers when responding to calls for service and how is that handled? Does the department have any bilingual staff?**

Most of the time there are family members who can translate for an individual who if not fluent in English. If this is not the case, we have a language translation line that we can call and usually get a translator quickly. We have also tested a language translation app on a smart phone that is specifically built for emergency medicine which holds some promise. It is not a requirement to be bilingual, but we do have some bilingual staff.

**14. When do other cities get called to help with our calls for service?**

Our surrounding jurisdictions will come to help us in three situations.

1. The first is automatic aid. Eastside jurisdictions have agreed to send the closest unit, regardless of where the call originates from. A unit outside of the jurisdiction may be sent because they are closest.
2. The second situation is a variation on the first. When units are assigned to other calls, the next unit is sent. Think about our table top exercise. When Aid 22 was on a call, Bellevue Engine 5 had to handle the second call for service.
3. The third instance would be a significant incident. This could be a fire, a motor vehicle accident or other large incident requiring more resources than the City possess.

**15. How do private aid cars work?**

Private ambulances are utilized by the Kirkland Fire Department when a patient is requesting transport to a hospital outside our transport area, which includes Evergreen and Overlake hospitals. Crews do occasionally transport to other hospitals based on the level of care needed for a patient. We do use private ambulances during busy periods to get Kirkland units back in service to provide coverage for the City. This also includes when units are out of the city for training.

**16. How do 911 centers know what resources to dispatch?**

Each jurisdiction has put together “run cards” into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that tells the system what to dispatch depending on the call type. So, a cardiac arrest get one BLS, one ALS, a Medical Services Officer (MSO) and a Fire Engine Company. A confirmed structure fire gets 4 Fire Engines, 2 Ladder Trucks, an Aid Unit, 2 Battalion Chiefs and a Safety Officer.

**17. Is sending one person in an aid car acceptable?**

No, we must send a minimum of two Firefighters on aid cars and three Firefighters on engines and ladder trucks.

**18. Do demographics matter in call volume (age, poverty, etc.)?**

The most impactful demographic for the City of Kirkland is an aging population which increases the number of calls for service due to age-related medical conditions related, falls in the home or calls to assisted living facilities.

**19. Are police ever called to an emergency?**

Yes, police and fire work together often. PD will come when requested by the Fire Department or for some calls such as automobile accidents or drug overdoses.

**20. Are we sending firefighters to wildfires across the state? Or to other states?**

Yes, Kirkland has deployed crews to California and Oregon and across the state of Washington.

**21. Does an alarm trigger an automatic fire call and how does that impact the response from the time of the call to intervention?**

Monitored or automatic fire alarms are routed to a call processing center. The call processing center then calls the appropriate dispatch agency. KFD's response times starts with the alarm company calls 911.

**22. How many crews are at each station?**

All stations are staffed with one crew of three that cross staffs and engine and aid car or ladder truck and aid car. The exceptions are station 25 with four firefighters, and station 27 with six.

**23. How does the city review the community risk management standards?**

Kirkland has not adopted its own risk reduction program. As a result, we do not have a comprehensive community risk reduction standards specifically for Kirkland. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) does have standards that Kirkland follows. In some cases, the NFPA standards require additional staffing that is not authorized at this time.

**Fire Station Facilities and Equipment**

**1. How are Fire Department vehicles and equipment maintained? Where are vehicles serviced and who performs the work? Is equipment maintenance every contracted out? Where and do you do equipment maintenance?**

Most equipment is maintained by firefighters. If still under warranty, repairs are done by the manufacturer. Each station has a small shop where maintenance is completed. Small engine maintenance is done in house (Chainsaws, Rescue saws, etc.) Technical equipment like the "Jaws of Life" are sent to the manufacturer nearly 100% of the time. So much of the answer depends on the equipment you are referring to. We have a dedicated Fire vehicle mechanic who also works on other City vehicles if time allows. This mechanic does the majority of work. Warranty items are done by the manufacturer.

**2. Does each firefighter have multiple sets of gear?**

Yes. Each firefighter has two set of protective gear. This allows each firefighter to be response ready with a clean set of gear while they are decontaminating, cleaning and drying gear.

**3. Is the water supply for fire sprinklers different than the domestic water supply? Does the City, or could the City experience water allocation issues?**

Fire sprinkler systems are supplied from the domestic water supply. There are some that have large holding tanks, but the tanks are filled from the domestic supply. In the case of a severe

water shortage, it is possible that rationing might be an option. For firefighting, we always have the option of drafting water from Lake Washington.

**4. Is the Cross Kirkland Corridor drivable for Fire apparatus? How does the department respond to calls for service on the CKC?**

Yes, there are multiple access points on the CKC for emergency vehicles and it was designed with this use in mind.

**5. Is there only one ladder truck? Will the ladder truck be moving with Fire Station 27? Should there be an additional ladder truck in downtown Kirkland?**

The ladder is generally not the first piece of equipment needed at a fire so a few minute delay has not been problematic. Our neighbors also maintain a single ladder truck which we frequently request on larger fires. The current plan is to move Ladder 27 to the new station when it's built. We are looking at an additional Ladder Truck stationed at Station 22 in Houghton which serves the downtown core.

**6. How many floors up can a ladder truck reach? Is that the determining factor for where standpipes are placed?**

Our Ladder Truck can extend 106 feet from the ground. Optimally, it can be safely operated up to 7-8 floors depending on positioning. Standpipes are determined by the fire code and consider building height.

**Firefighter Staffing and Training**

**24. How many firefighters are EMTs?**

All Kirkland Firefighters, Lieutenants, Captains, and Battalion Chiefs are emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

**25. Are you able to find qualified firefighter applicants?**

We have had great success in getting qualified, exceptional candidates for firefighters. We are seeing a slight decrease in numbers of applicants, but it has not had a significant impact on us to date.

**26. Can firefighters afford to live in Kirkland?**

This is a difficult question to answer as every individual's situation is unique. For reference, a Firefighter's salary ranges from \$6,167 to \$8,334 per month (2019 rates). The median home price in Kirkland is \$715,000. Source: <https://www.zillow.com/kirkland-wa/home-values/>, and [the average apartment rent is \\$2,051 \(retrieved 11/13/19 from https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/wa/kirkland/\)](https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/wa/kirkland/).

**27. What is the training/on-boarding timeline?**

After undergoing an extensive hiring process, which includes multiple panel interviews, medical and psychological exams, fitness assessments, and background checks, newly hired Firefighters attend a 12-week training academy and followed by a 5-week EMT course. Once assigned to a

fire station, new Firefighters finish their one-year probationary period with regular evaluations.

**28. Are firefighters/EMTs on PERS (Public Employees Retirement System)?**

No. Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers participate in the state's LEOFF pension system (Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Plan 2).

**29. What is a Kelly Day and who is "Kelly"?**

A Kelly Day is a scheduled day off to ensure that firefighters do not exceed the adopted 48 hour work week. The term "Kelly Day" originated in Chicago in 1936 when then Mayor Edward Kelly gave firefighters a day off for every seven days on duty. Source:

<https://ceas.uc.edu/content/dam/aero/docs/fire/FLSA.pdf>

**30. Can Kelly Days be banked/traded?**

They can be traded but not banked.

**31. Are you on duty if you are out of the city for training?**

Most training takes place when firefighters are on duty and may take place in Kirkland or in one of the adjacent Fire Departments that have training facilities. When firefighters train outside the City limits, other stations in Kirkland and stations in adjacent communities provide coverage within Kirkland.

**32. How does the City hire new firefighters?**

We use a testing company called "Public Safety Testing". They administer a written exam and a physical exam and provide the City a list of candidates in order by score. We then conduct two rounds of interviews. High level candidates then go through a background check, medical evaluation, physical exam, physical fitness test and a psychological exam. Once completed, successful candidates then must go through the Fire recruit academy and complete one year probationary period.

**33. How many people do you hire in a year? How long does a firefighter usually stay with the same city?**

The number of people hired in year is based on employee turnover and the addition of new positions by the City Council. Employee turnover can result from retirements, resignations or from firefighters that have injuries or medical conditions that result in a permanent disability. New positions aside, new hires average four per year. Fire departments in general have low turnover rates and firefighters remain as city or fire district employees until they retire.

**34. Where are battalion chiefs stationed?**

KFD has a Battalion Chief on duty 24/7. KFD's Battalion Chief is housed at Station 26 in North Rose Hill. We also receive Battalion Chiefs from surrounding jurisdictions when needed.

**35. Do you do lateral transfers vs new hires?**

The Kirkland Fire Department has experienced lateral transfers from other departments in the City such as Police. Lateral transfers from other fire departments is not the norm, however the City did bring on six Woodinville Fire and Life Safety firefighters following the annexation in 2011 and the closure of WFLS Station 34 in Kingsgate. Laterals from other departments are more common at the management level to fill positions such as Deputy Chief or Fire Chief.

**36. Can firefighters train on overtime?**

Yes. Much of our classroom/conference type training is done while off duty. In those situations, firefighters are paid overtime to attend. Our “hands on” training and training that involves multiple fire apparatus from multiple jurisdictions training together is generally done while on duty.

**37. Do you train with other cities? Is training standardized across the region?**

Yes. We train often and intentionally with our neighboring jurisdictions. Training is standardized across the region to a great degree. North King County is part of a training consortium that provides regular training to firefighters using the same curriculum, terminology and training officers. The county is currently moving towards consolidation into one central training consortium with satellite campuses throughout the county. This is with the goal of all firefighters in the county sharing the same curriculum, terminology and instructors.

**38. Do you train with the Police?**

Yes. We train with them on active shooter events and they train with us in the use of naroxalone, a drug that helps patients on opioids. In addition, we train together regularly in the Emergency Operations Center where City staff convene in the event of an emergency.

**39. How have changes in the types of calls for service, building types and firefighting equipment changed the type of training needed by firefighters?**

The working environment for firefighting dictates the tactics and tasks used by engine companies. These are different in small single story houses compared to 3-story town houses. Additionally, garden style apartments, where entries are in outdoor corridors, are different than interior hallway apartments. Lastly single story commercial strip buildings call for different tactics than multiple story mixed construction and mixed use commercial buildings. Kirkland has evolved in building types and its firefighters must now be competent in tactics and tasks for all these types of structures.

**40. Where is the recruit school? How does that work?**

Presently the Kirkland Fire Department sends new employees to a regional recruit academy and these new employees train for approximately 13 weeks with other firefighters from our area. After this they go on to a five-week Emergency Medical Technician school and then return to Kirkland for approximately 2 weeks of work with the Kirkland Fire Training Division before being assigned to a company. Recruits have trained at the state fire training facility in North Bend or at the City of Bellevue or Northshore Fire in Kenmore where there are training facilities.

**41. Are firefighter required to have training in psychology?**

There is training for fire investigators regarding arson and the questioning of witnesses, etc. that have a psychology component to them.

**42. Whose job is it to schedule the firefighters/EMTs?**

It is a Deputy Chief's job to assign firefighters to shifts. Once assigned, the shift supervisors – the Battalion Chief, Captains, and Lieutenants – manage the schedule

**43. What's is the percentage of overtime pay compared to total payroll?**

In 2018, the percentage of overtime was 10.1% of total fire operations wages and in 2017 it was 6.3%. The percentage of overtime will vary depending on the number of position vacancies and employee leaves such as family medical leave time.

**44. Are there times when sets don't sleep?**

Yes. A long fire at night can go for 8-10 hours. Additionally, several shorter calls throughout the night can result in the same inability to sleep.

**The Built Environment – Fire Prevention Bureau**

**1. Does the City have its own set of standards separate from the State Fire code? Does the City require sprinkler systems in single family residences?**

Kirkland's fire code generally mirrors the State Fire Code, although local jurisdictions can impose more stringent requirements than the state. For instance, Kirkland requires new single-family residential units over 5,000 square feet to install a sprinkler system, but that is not a requirement in the State Fire Code.

**2. Does the fire code limit on how tall buildings can be in Kirkland?**

The Kirkland Zoning Code determines where taller buildings can be located and how tall they can be. The Growth Management Act encourages cities to ensure that adequate services are available to serve new development including fire and emergency medical services.

**3. Do you work with surrounding cities to implement similar fire codes?**

The cities in King County do work together to keep as much consistency in local fire codes as possible. This makes it simpler for architects and builders to understand and follow code requirements.

**4. Has your inspection capacity kept up with demand? Is there a backlog of inspections?**

There is currently a backlog of inspections. The Fire Prevention Bureau has not been able to keep up with the current demand for service but the department is increasing the number of inspections each year.

**5. Does the Fire Prevention Bureau fine people or impose other penalties for not following the fire code?**

We have the ability to fine people, but our general policy is to try and work with a building owner to gain compliance without the use of fines which is generally successful.

**6. Does the Fire Bureau have a process to alert the community of hazardous materials they may be exposed to?**

Yes. Notifications would most likely come through the Office of Emergency Management and be publicized by the City Communications team if there was an incident involving hazardous materials that may put the public at risk.

**7. Does the City do regular fire sprinkler inspections in duplexes and triplexes?**

Inspections are typically done by a private company hired by the building owners. Fire Code inspectors verify, through inspection, that the system has been inspected and certified by a certified inspection firm annually.

**8. When outside fire investigation help is required, does Kirkland pay for that?**

Generally no, but there could be circumstances where we are short-staffed or have multiple fire investigations occurring simultaneously where we would ask for a neighboring fire investigator. In that situation we would pay the neighboring jurisdiction for their time.

**9. Does the cause of every fire have to be determined?**

Yes.

**10. What are the requirements to be a qualified fire inspector? Do you have to be a firefighter to be an inspector? Are inspectors different than firefighters?**

While all firefighters have a basic level of fire inspection training, to become a certified fire inspector requires training and the passing of a test. In some jurisdictions, that is not the case. In Kirkland, all fire inspectors come from the ranks of our firefighters. Inspectors have to maintain their certifications and training as firefighters while they are inspectors.

**11. Can inspectors support operations if needed?**

Yes.

**12. How many staff are in the Fire Prevention Bureau?**

There are seven full-time staff in the Bureau -- one Fire Marshal, one Assistant Fire Marshal, four Inspectors and one Administrative Support position.

**13. Are separate software systems running the logs of the fire alarm systems?**

Yes. Private monitoring agencies monitor and log fire alarm systems. They are not connected to the Fire Department or to Fire Dispatch.

**14. How quickly can a building be occupied after it has had a fire?**

Reoccupation depends on the severity of the fire. Most cases it is a minimum of 24 hours. This can span into multiple days or months if rebuilding the home is necessary.