



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Fleets and Facilities Department

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Mayor unveils new fire station in Rainier Valley

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today celebrated the grand opening of the first neighborhood fire station completed as part of the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, passed by Seattle voters in 2003. The new fire station in Rainier Valley is part of the biggest undertaking in the last 40 years to upgrade, replace and modernize fire stations.

“After a visit to Kobe, our sister city in Japan, I saw the effects of the 1995 earthquake that paralyzed the city,” said Nickels. “I returned determined to modernize and seismically strengthen Seattle’s fire and emergency response facilities,” said Nickels.

“Mayor Nickels is leaving a legacy of a safer, better prepared Seattle,” said Fleets and Facilities Director Brenda Bauer. “With construction underway at seven neighborhood fire stations, each completed project brings us closer to our goal of building durable assets designed to keep both the city — and firefighters — safe.”

The new 14,650 square foot facility meets seismic code and is designed to be safely occupied following an earthquake. The building rests on 287 aggregate piers, designed to support the building even if the earth moves. Shear walls are located throughout the building.

The creation of a new, bigger station provides more space for equipment and operations. Built in 1951, the outdated fire station lacked the space to support modern firefighting. As Seattle became denser and taller, the engines and trucks increased in size, and crews outgrew the old station. A new apparatus bay provides the space the ladder truck, engine, and aid unit require. Features of the new facility to protect firefighters include a decontamination room and areas to avoid contaminating clean spaces with chemicals and toxic substances. Additional room for equipment includes a bunker gear room and storage space for modern firefighting equipment.

In case of an emergency event and a power outage, a 230 kW generator powers the station to allow the firefighters to respond to the needs of the community.

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“Across the city, from Lake City to Rainier Valley to the new large fire boat in Elliott Bay, residents can see their tax dollars at work as we build capacity and flexibility into the fire and emergency response system,” said Nickels.

Fire Station 28, located at 5968 Rainier South, houses Engine 28, Ladder 12, and Medic 28. With over 3,200 emergency responses a year, Engine 28 is one of the busiest engine companies in the city.

The new building reflects the city’s commitment to green design practices. The basement of the old fire station will be used as a stormwater vault, with the capacity to hold more than 125,000 gallons of storm water runoff. Stormwater will be collected from all of the impervious areas on the site and routed to this storage facility. The water will be used to wash fire trucks and equipment, dramatically reducing potable water use. The project is on track for LEED Silver certification.

The second phase of the project will begin in late December 2009 with the demolition of the existing fire station. The portion of the site currently occupied by the old station will be developed as a landscaped public amenity, featuring public art. As part of 1% for Art Funding, artist Wayne Chabre is fabricating a sculpture specially designed for the site.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, which was designed with lessons learned from the Nisqually earthquake, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the 1995 Kobe earthquake, among others.

The \$167 million levy is helping Seattle make tremendous progress on getting prepared, including:

- Rebuilding or upgrading 32 neighborhood fire stations to better withstand earthquakes and ensure that the city’s emergency responders are available to help when they are needed most.
- Re-opening the seismically upgraded/improved Fire Station 33 in Rainier Beach in September 2009.
- Re-opening the seismically upgraded/improved Fire Station 31 in Northgate in April 2009.
- Adding two new fireboats, the flagship Leschi, delivered last year, and the smaller fire and rescue boat, Engine 1, that went into service in 2006.
- Creating a new Joint Training Facility for firefighters that opened last year.

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- Providing an emergency water supply for fighting fires. Hardened hydrants at city reservoirs allow firefighters to draw water directly from reservoirs in an emergency.
- Placing emergency supply caches at four locations around the city of Seattle.
- Installing emergency generators at six community centers.

The \$12 million Fire Station 28 was designed by local architects Schreiber, Starling and Lane, and built by Berschauer Phillips Construction Company.

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