



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Fleets and Facilities Department

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Mayor breaks ground for new station in Mount Baker

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today broke ground for the new Fire Station 30 in the Mount Baker neighborhood. The current facility, built in 1949, does not meet current seismic code and is too small to accommodate modern equipment and firefighting operations.

Funded by the 2003 Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy program, the new station is one of eighteen active Fire Levy projects.

"Seattle residents had the foresight to vote for the Fire Levy, and now they can see their tax dollars at work in their neighborhoods," said Nickels. "By building these projects now, we protect the public and put people to work."

Replacing the old Fire Station 30 is an important step forward in bringing Seattle's fire facilities into the 21st century. The Fire Levy investment is the biggest upgrade of fire facilities in 40 years.

The new, larger station will meet current seismic code — and provide the space necessary for modern equipment and operational requirements. The replacement station is designed to withstand an earthquake and allow firefighters to provide critical services to the community.

Fire Station 30, located at 2931 S. Mt. Baker Boulevard, houses Engine 30 and a reserve engine. In 2008, Engine 30 went on nearly 2,000 alarms.

The new station will nearly triple in size, expanding from 2,568 square feet to 8,328 square feet. Seattle architects Schacht Aslani designed the \$7.9 million project. The construction contractor is Synergy Construction, Inc.

Sustainable features include a ground source heat pump and a highly efficient building envelope to contribute to energy savings. A bioswale will be incorporated into the landscape design to remove silt and pollution from surface run-off. The project is on target to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating.

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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.

The \$167 million levy is helping Seattle make significant 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.
- Opening the new Fire Station 28 in Rainier Valley in December 2009.
- 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.
- Opening the city's new state-of-the-art Fire Station 10, Fire Alarm Center, and Emergency Operations Center, located in a 60,333 square foot complex, in 2008.
- Adding two new fireboats, the flagship Leschi, delivered in 2007, and the smaller fire and rescue boat, Engine 1, which went into service in 2006. The Chief Seattle is being renovated.
- Creating a new Joint Training Facility for firefighters that opened in 2007.
- 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.
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