



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Fleets and Facilities Department

Brenda Bauer, Director

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Mayor celebrates completion of upgraded fire station in Rainier Beach

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today unveiled the seismically upgraded and improved Fire Station 33 in Rainier Beach.

Improvements made to Fire Station 33 are part of the Fire Levy program, 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.”

Seismically upgrading and improving Fire Station 33 is an important step forward in bringing Seattle’s fire facilities into the 21st century.

Built in 1971, the station did not meet current seismic code. Concrete shear walls and steel connections were added to stabilize the building in the event of lateral movement during an earthquake. The 6,506 square foot facility is built to the “immediate occupancy” standard – the building is designed to be safely occupied following an earthquake. The upgraded station is designed to withstand an earthquake and allow firefighters to provide critical services to the community.

A new, small addition to the apparatus bay will enable firefighters to carry out modern operations safely and efficiently. A new decontamination room, bunker gear storage, bunk gear cleaning and space for emergency medical support storage and maintenance ensures the safety of the firefighters – and the community.

Fire Station 33, located at 9645 Renton Ave. S., houses Engine 33. In 2008, Engine 33 went on 2,376 alarms.

New exterior improvements include new accessible access to the facility, a new driveway apron, storm sewer modifications and landscaping. Sustainable features include new energy efficient mechanical boilers and exterior windows.

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Weaver Architects of Seattle designed the \$2.2 million project. Serpanok Construction built the station.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy.

“Across the city, from the University District to Rainier Valley to the new large fire boat in Elliott Bay, Seattle residents can see the results of the Mayor’s vision of a safer and better prepared Seattle,” said Brenda Bauer, director of the Fleets and Facilities Department.

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.
- 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.
- Installing emergency generators at six community centers.

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