



# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Renton Regional Fire Authority

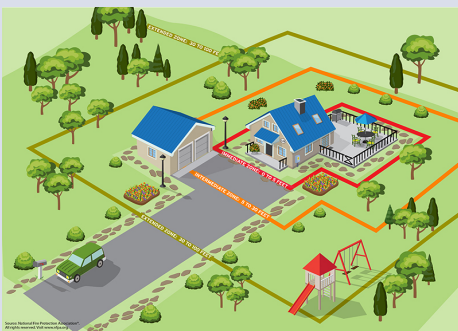
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

May 2024

## Defensible Space

Creating defensible space around your property is an important way that you can help to keep your home safe from wildfires. Defensible space is the space between your home and the surrounding area. It is important because it acts as barrier to slow or halt the progression of a fire that would otherwise engulf the property. The first 5 feet of defensible space is the most important. **Removing dead and dying vegetation and other flammable materials** within five feet of your home, **keeping debris away from your home and regularly clearing your roof and rain gutters** can help to create this defensible space.

Having defensible space around your home is key to slowing wildfire spread and protecting your home from embers, flames, or heat. According to research from the National Fire Prevention Association, embers and small flames have been found as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are small, hot pieces of solid fuel and during a wildfire they can be carried more than a mile through the wind and ignite homes, debris, and other objects.



## Wildfire Awareness Month

May is Wildfire Awareness month. Wildfire Awareness month encourages people to come together to take action to reduce wildfire risks in their communities.

Wildfires often give very little warning and spread rapidly, giving us little time to prepare, which is why it is so important to



work together to take precautions to help keep your community safe. Following the tips below can help you to 'protect your property' and 'be ready for wildfires'.

### Protect your property!

- **Create healthy landscapes.** You can reduce the risk of wildfire effecting your home by maintaining your deck, garage, roof and the structure of your home.
- **Rake and remove debris** such as pine needles and dry leaves to a minimum of 5 feet from a home's foundation. Dispose of the collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- **Remove items stored under decks and porches.** Relocate these items to a storage area. Store gasoline cans and portable propane tanks away from the home. These items should never be stored indoors or near the home.
- **Don't drive or park recreational vehicles over weeds or grass.** Hot vehicles parts can ignite vegetation and start a wildfire.
- **Before lighting a fire, check for fire bans or restrictions.** It could be illegal to burn on days with hot, dry, or windy weather conditions.

### Be ready for wildfires!

- **Stay tuned to the local radio or television station** for information and instructions from local officials.
- **Have several escape routes** planned away from your home by car or foot.
- **Plan for and practice evacuation.** Participate in drills with your family and your community to address and identify issues before a fire.
- **Have a disaster supply kit** ready to take with you. Have an emergency bag of items ready in case you need to evacuate your home quickly
- **Check in on Others!** Help elderly relatives or neighbors or other who might need assistance to enter emergency numbers in to their cell phones.



# Significant Incidents

## Significant Incident Monthly Summary: April 2024

- 1,523 Total Incidents (RFA Responses)
- 7 Significant Incidents
- 4 Significant EMS Calls
- 3 Significant Fire Calls

### Incident Details:

- On April 1, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a mutual aid call for a residential fire in Station 22's area on the 12800 block of 64th Ave S. Renton RFA responded with King County Fire District #20, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, King County Medic One and King County Sheriffs and 4 engines and 2 officer rigs for a total of 14 RRFA personnel. Units arrived at a medium 2-story house with smoke and flames observed from the front, right corner on floors 1 and 2. After completing a 360 search, crews reported the house fire was 50% involved and a grow operation was discovered in the remodeled garage. Crews received confirmation that no occupants were in the structure. The incident upgraded to a second alarm fire. Crews began their fire attack and checked for any hot spots, including in the attic. One patient found in front of the house was treated by KC Medic One and declined transport to a hospital. One firefighter was treated and transported to Valley Medical Center.
- On April 13, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a shooting incident in Station 12's area on the 600 block of Camas Ave NE. Renton RFA responded with King County Medic One and Renton Police and 1 engine, 1 aid unit and 1 officer rig for a total of 6 RRFA personnel. Units arrived on scene to an unconscious patient with a severe gunshot wound. Firefighters assisted KC Medic One with patient care. The patient was transported to Harborview Medical Center by KC Medic One unit, accompanied by 3 firefighters.
- On April 14, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a moving vehicle accident involving 3 cars on the southbound lanes of I-405 just north of N Southport Dr. Renton RFA responded with King County Fire District #20, King County Medic One, TriMed, Renton Police and WA State Patrol and 4 engines, 1 aid unit and 1 officer rig for a total of 15 RRFA personnel. There were reports of a pickup truck driving the wrong direction on SB I-405 that collided with 2 vehicles. The incident blocked all lanes. The truck and an SUV erupted into flames. Each vehicle had a single occupant who had self-extricated prior to the fire department arriving. Units arrived and began their fire attack and provided patient care, confirming 3 patients. After being treated, one patient declined transport to a hospital. A second patient was transported to Overlake Hospital by TriMed. The scene was turned over to WA State Patrol.
- On April 19, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a brush fire in Station 12's area at the 500 block of Grandey Way NE. Renton RFA responded with King County Fire District #20 and Renton Police and 2 brush rigs, 5 engines, 1 aid unit and 2 officer rigs for a total of 27 RRFA personnel. There were reports of a fire that developed in a greenbelt owned by Puget Sound Energy. The fire spread quickly uphill towards Bronson Way, heading towards residential homes to the south. While enroute, crews reported seeing a smoke column and requested the brush rig. Renton PD was requested to close access to all streets in the area. Units were positioned in assigned areas and began their fire attack. Crews checked for hot spots downwind and found none. PSE was notified and checked for any damage to power lines, with none reported.
- On April 20, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a boat accident in Station 15's area at the 1200 block of Lake Washington Blvd N. Renton RFA responded with 1 engine, 1 aid unit, 1 water rescue unit and 1 officer rig for a total of 11 RRFA personnel. There was a report of a capsized sailboat from strong winds and one victim in the water. Two bystanders on a jet ski picked up the victim, bringing them back to Gene Coulon Park. Crews arrived and provided care and the patient waited for family to arrive.
- On April 24, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a residential fire in Station 13's area at the 16000 block of 109th Ave SE. Renton RFA responded with 5 engines, 1 aid unit and 2 officer rigs for a total of 19 RRFA personnel. The first arriving units reported a home with smoke coming from the back of the structure. After a 360 search was completed, crews reported a shed fire spreading to the house. All occupants had evacuated, and one neighbor attempted to put out the fire with a garden hose. Due to smoke inhalation and exposure to heat, the patient was treated and transported to Valley Medical Center. Crews began their fire attack and checked for any extension. Primary and secondary searches were completed with nothing found. One unit conducted air monitoring before allowing the family to re-enter the home. A fire investigator was called to the scene.