



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue and Central Kitsap School District Sign Interlocal Agreement**  
*Property Would be Location for Fire Station*

Silverdale, Wash. – The fire and school districts serving Central Kitsap county approved an interlocal agreement for property this week. The agreement allows Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue to lease land from the school district at a cost of \$1 per year. The land would be home to a new fire station to serve Seabeck and the surrounding communities if voters approve funding for a facilities bond this November.

“This is a great example of local governments working together to serve taxpayers,” said Fire Chief John Oliver. “We have needed a larger facility in this location, and are grateful to the school district for partnering with us on this project.”

“Our vision for this property has always been one that involves our community. We’ve retained the gym for community use, along with the existing ball fields, but we also wanted to explore other uses for the property,” said Doug Newell, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Support.

The station would replace one that was built in 1963. The existing station is not up to current seismic standards, and is at risk of collapsing in an earthquake. It is too small to shelter modern emergency apparatus, and there are no decontamination areas for firefighters who are exposed to diesel-exhaust fumes or infectious diseases, which is an issue with the current pandemic.

The leased land was the home of Seabeck Elementary School before it was closed in 2007. Assistant Superintendent Newell says that this partnership continues the mission of the property serving the public, noting that Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue will be providing site improvements, including additional parking, site lighting, and sidewalks.

“We really see this as being a community campus where the public has safe and convenient access to the fields and community center,” said Newell. “This land is owned by our taxpayers, so it makes sense that it continues to serve them.”

The agencies have been negotiating a land lease agreement for several months. The fire district approved a Capital Facilities Plan last year, which called for a station close to, or near the site of the old school based on call volumes.



The Board of Fire Commissioners for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue unanimously approved a resolution to place a bond for facility improvements on the November 3 General Election ballot. The purpose of the bond is to improve community safety through faster response times, and to provide a safer and healthier work environment for firefighters.

More information on the facilities bond proposal can be found on the fire district's website at [www.ckfr.org](http://www.ckfr.org), including a full list of station projects. Chief John Oliver also is available to respond to questions at [joliver@ckfr.org](mailto:joliver@ckfr.org) or (360) 447-3566.

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*Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue has provided fire and life safety services to residents and businesses since 1942. Today, it is one of the largest emergency service providers in the county, responding to over 8,000 emergency calls per year. CKFR operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all its financial and accountability audits with the State of Washington.*

*Central Kitsap School District is devoted to providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed both in school and beyond graduation. The district serves about 11,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12 and is home to 19 schools.*