



SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Renton Regional Fire Authority

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

April 2024

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is distracted driving awareness month. Distracted driving is a major factor that causes traffic fatalities and accidents. A distracted driving crash is any crash that resulted from the driver being distracted from safely operating a vehicle while driving. According to the United States Department of Transportation, some of the most common distractions faced by drivers while operating their vehicle include talking, texting, using apps, such as social media, adjusting the radio, drinking or eating, and applying makeup while driving. A recent study conducted by the United States Department of Transportation showed that younger drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 years old are often the most distracted drivers. Cell phone use while driving, including talking, texting, and scrolling on social media are the biggest distractions for this age group. April is a good time to take responsibility for choices we make while on the road. Following these **safe driving tips** can help to keep yourself and your passenger safe on the road.

- Always keep two hands on the wheel while driving.
- Keep your eyes on the road at all times.
- Pull over and park if you need to send a text.
- Do not scroll through apps or social media when driving.
- Avoid eating and drinking while driving.
- Do not try to multi-task while driving.



SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ **Never use grills indoors.** Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outside.
- ✓ **Inspect your grill.** Before pulling out your grill to use this season, make sure to carefully inspect it and make sure that it is free of grease, fat build up, and spider webs or nests.
- ✓ **Position all BBQ grills a minimum of 10 feet away** from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ✓ **Keep a 3 foot safe zone around your grill when in use.** This will help to keep children and pets safe from the flames.
- ✓ **Don't leave your grill unattended.** Keep an eye on your grill, don't walk away when it is lit.
- ✓ **Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.**

Charcoal Grills

If you plan on using a charcoal grill this year, take care to keep the charcoal fluid away from heat sources and out of the reach of children. Additionally, make sure that when you are finished grilling you allow the coals to cool down completely before disposing of them in a metal container.



Propane Grills

Before using your propane grill for the first time this year, make sure to check the gas tank hose for leaks. If your grill has a gas leak, make sure to turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, call a professional to come service the grill. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department.**



Significant Incidents

Significant Incident Monthly Summary: March 2024

- 1,670 Total Incidents (RFA Responses)
- 3 Significant Incidents
- 1 Significant EMS Call
- 2 Significant Fire Calls

Incident Details:

- On March 16, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a commercial fire in Station 11's area on the 200 block of N Sunset Blvd. Renton RFA responded with King County Fire District #20 and 4 engines, 1 aid unit and 2 officer rigs for a total of 16 RRFA personnel. Units arrived at a two-story house converted into a business with light smoke coming from the structure. A 360 search was completed, and firefighters found the fire in the basement with reports it started from the dryer. Crews extinguished the fire, completed a search, and checked for any fire extension. One unit was assigned to ventilation and another to CO monitoring. A secondary search was completed on the 2nd floor with nothing found. There were no reported injuries and minimal damage to the structure.
- On March 16, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a commercial fire in Station 13's area on the 17900 block of Talbot Rd S. Renton RFA responded with 3 engines, 1 aid unit and 1 officer rig for a total of 12 RRFA personnel. Units arrived at a 2-story commercial building with flames in a stairwell of the back right corner of the building. Renton PD was escorting the residents of the adjacent unit down the stairs and informed firefighters the building was completely evacuated. Crews began their fire attack and primary search. They checked for any fire extension then began ventilation. Though there was smoke inside the building, damage remained in the exterior. A fire investigator was called to the scene.
- On March 19, 2024, Renton RFA responded to a multi-car accident in Station 17's area on the intersection of SE 192nd St and 140th Ave SE. Renton RFA responded with Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, King County Medic One, TriMed and King County Sheriff and 2 engines, 2 aid units and 2 officer rigs for a total of 12 RRFA personnel. Units arrived at a 5-vehicle accident with one car on its side and multiple casualties. Firefighters began immediate patient care and extrication. Three patients were transferred to Harborview Medical by KC Medic One and accompanied by firefighters. One patient was transferred by TriMed to Valley Medical Center. This was declared a mass casualty incident with 4 injured patients (3 critical and 1 minor) and 4 deceased. Two chaplains responded to assist the families and a public information officer (PIO) was on site to assist the media. The intersection was closed for several hours to complete the investigation and clear the scene.