ANNUAL REPORT

2013-Bellevue Fire Prevention

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BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

450 110th Ave. NE
Bellevue WA 98009

FIRE PREVENTION

General Contact: 425-452-6872
E-mail: Fire_prevention@bellevuewa.gov
Web:
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/fire_marshal_message.htm

- Fire Fact Sheets
- Fire Safety Videos
- Public Information sheets
- Fire Code Interpretations
- Operational Permit Information

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS & FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

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Dennis Warner, Fire Prevention Officer
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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW & INSPECTIONS

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akjones@bellevuewa.gov

Kevin Carolan, Fire Prevention Officer
Phone: 425-452-7832
kcarolan@bellevuewa.gov

New Construction Inspection Requests: 425-452-6875
Or www.MyBuildingPermit.com
"Request an Inspection" from the main page

Fire Construction Inspector: 425-452-4254

Fire Construction Inspectors

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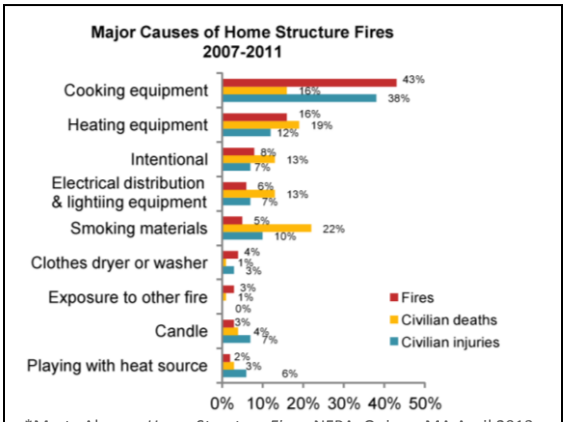
Message from Bellevue Fire Marshal-Ken Carlson

As the name "Fire Prevention" implies, we exist primarily to prevent fires. When fires do occur, we investigate the origin and cause and apply any lessons learned to education, engineering and/or enforcement (see examples below). We have a dedicated staff consisting of a Public Education Coordinator, Plan Reviewers, Inspectors and Fire Investigators that work together with our firefighters in an effort to prevent fires.

Our fire problem, both here and across the country, occurs mostly where we live. Nationally, in 2012, home structure fires caused 83% of the civilian fire deaths and 78% of the civilian fire injuries. In the same year for Bellevue, our residential fires accounted for 83% of all structure fires, 75% of the dollar loss and 100% of the injuries.



*Marty Ahrens, *Home Structure Fires*, NFPA, Quincy, MA April 2013

Examples of how we utilize education, engineering and enforcement to reduce fires, or the impact of fires, to our citizens:

EDUCATION-

For three years in a row, we have included live cooking demos as part of our annual Open House. These provide a unique opportunity to demonstrate the right way to deal with a stovetop fire and what happens when done incorrectly.

ENGINEERING-

In accordance with Washington State law, all newly constructed multi-family buildings must be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems. There is no better, more cost-effective means of mitigating the impacts of a fire than installation of an automatic sprinkler system. We also continue to advocate for the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in all new single family homes.

ENFORCEMENT-

The International Fire Code requires certain multi-family buildings to be retro-actively equipped with a fire alarm system if the building does not already have one. As part of our annual inspection of these buildings in our service area, we have identified buildings requiring these systems and have given building owners and managers two years to install them.

**If you have any feedback about this report, please feel free to share your thoughts with us.*
Ken Carlson, Fire Marshal

Public Education-Outreach

The Fire Department's Public Education and Outreach Program are coordinated by Kathy Barker. Kathy taught or coordinated 106 fire safety classes and events in 2013, reaching over 10,000 people, as well as conducting 49 high rise fire drills which involved 43,000 participants.

GRANTS- Kathy applied for, received, and managed two separate grants received in 2013. One of these grants was from King County Emergency Medical Services, and the objective of the grant was to identify people (seniors) at risk of falling, determine what kind of safety devices would assist them, purchase and install the needed equipment in their homes. Through this grant, Fire Prevention was able to provide equipment like raised toilet seats, shower benches, shower chairs, and hand held shower heads, bed bars, etc. at no cost to the participant. A total of 25 participants benefited from this grant.

The second grant was through Vision 20/20. This grant provided the Fire Department smoke detectors for the deaf and hard of hearing and regular smoke detectors which we were able to install throughout the community. Overall, 90 smoke detectors and 15 detectors for the deaf and hard of hearing were installed in people's homes. Additionally, home safety surveys were provided to 75 homes in Bellevue as part of this grant.

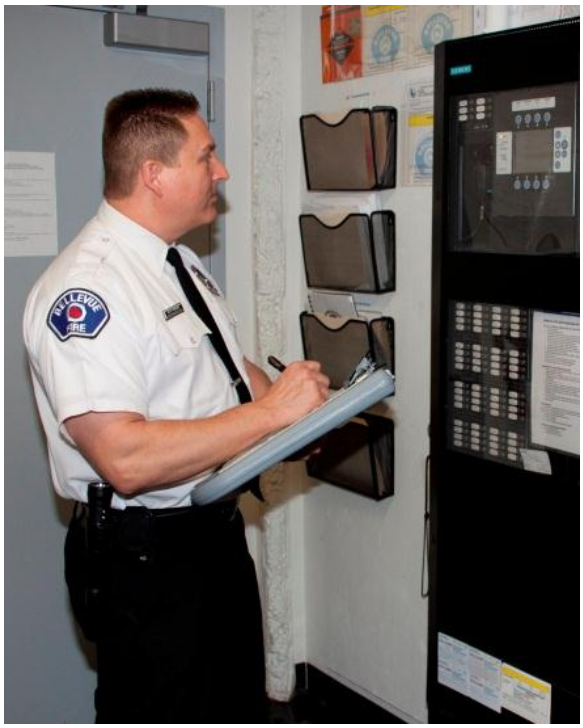
Kathy is partnering with the Volunteer Coordinator for the Bellevue Police Department and is developing a program where volunteers will conduct home safety surveys covering both crime prevention and fire safety concerns. Most of the request for this service comes as a result of Crime Prevention talks in neighborhoods. Currently there is one volunteer and recruitment is under way to bring more volunteers into the program.

HIGH-RISE DRILLS- The Bellevue Fire Department has a very comprehensive High Rise Program. There are currently 52 high rises in Bellevue, with more under construction. Bellevue Inspectors and Fire Fighters conduct inspections, insuring that all building systems are functioning properly, and observing the evacuation of the tenants. The Fire Fighters also practice high rise tactics during these drills. Kathy coordinates this program with building management and fire personnel. In an effort to improve participation in high rise fire drills, and help management companies become more invested in the drills, a focus group of high rise managers was convened to meet with Fire Prevention staff to give input on the program and suggestions on improvements. We are looking at working with a vendor to provide online tenant and floor captain training with a small financial cost to the building; it will require the participation of a majority of property managers.

FIRE OPEN HOUSE-During Fire Prevention Week in October, the Bellevue Fire Department held open houses at all of their fire stations and invited the community to visit the stations and learn about the services of the Bellevue Fire Department. Each station hosted a number of activities. The Fire Safety Trailer was on hand to teach kids about evacuating from their homes during a fire, and a stove-top fire demonstration was held at several of the stations to show people what to do if they have a fire on the stove top.

Annual Inspections

Bellevue Fire Department performs an inspection of every structure except single family homes every year in an effort verify that the buildings and the associated fire life/safety systems are maintained in accordance with the International Fire Code and relevant National Fire Protection Association Standards. That translates to roughly 8,400 inspections every year and when deficiencies are discovered a re-inspection to verify that the deficiencies are corrected.



Firefighters perform approximately 5,000 of these inspections typically in buildings of 3 stories or less in height. They perform these inspections while remaining ready to respond to emergencies. Fire Prevention Officers inspect the balance in buildings ranging from high-rise to assembly occupancies.

This year we paid particular attention to multi-family buildings in these areas:

SMOKE & CO_2 ALARMS-Washington State adopted a new law that was enacted on January 1, 2013. This new law required all residential occupancies to install CO_2 detectors in homes, add smoke detectors in all sleeping areas and install a manual fire alarm system for apartment buildings that exceed some set thresholds. Due to the significant impact of these new laws, the Fire Prevention Division assigned a Fire Prevention Officer to undertake this project. This special project has so far been successful in ensuring installation of smoke and CO_2 detectors in thousands of apartments, condominiums, hotels and motels, undoubtedly providing the possibility of saving countless lives and property.

RETROACTIVE FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS - Every multi-family building was inspected in 2013 to determine if they met the criteria of the International Fire Code Section 1103.7.6 to retroactively install either a manual or automatic fire alarm system. We have identified 114 buildings that meet this criterion and will be working with the owners of these buildings over the next two years to see that these fire alarm systems are installed.

Plan Review-New Construction

The plan review and construction inspection team of Fire Prevention consists of three Fire Prevention Officers doing a mixture of plan review and construction inspections, a Fire Plan Reviewer assigned to a big portion of the major projects and an Assistant Fire Marshal managing plan review and inspection work load. A total of 3,202 plans were reviewed and 3,658 construction inspections were conducted on projects ranging from high-rise buildings to single family homes this year. This is a significant increase from the past few years, and projections for 2014 rise even higher. In November we added Chris Spurlock to the review group to help us with our 57% target completion on plan reviews. Even though 2014 should bring even more projects, we are working hard to plan for the increase and appropriate staff as necessary. 2013 has been a turning point in construction and project planning. This is a sigh of relief after working through several years of slower economic growth.

On July 1st 2013, the City adopted the 2012 International Building, Fire and Mechanical codes. Staff worked together to comb through these documents and make appropriate amendments. Particular efforts were made to roll standards and policies that were located in a range of documents into these codes. This helped customers and staff eliminate the confusion with working in a wide range of documents. We also took this opportunity to adopt standards for the upcoming Sound Transit East Link Light Rail Project.

PAPERLESS PERMITTING PROCESS- On July 15th of this year, City of Bellevue went live with phase two of our Paperless Permitting Initiative. This opened the door for all Development Services applications to be submitted electronically through MyBuildingPermit.com. To date, 44% of Development Services applications are being submitted through the portal. As we move into 2014, the next phase of the (PPI) will be to give field staff the resources to be technologically mobile. A project team has been formed, and some beta testing of devices and software have begun.

Investigations

The Bellevue Fire Department investigates every fire in order to determine where (origin) and how (cause) it started. The information gleaned from investigating the origin and cause is then utilized to focus our fire prevention efforts where they will yield the most impact. Most of the fires are investigated by firefighters but those meeting certain criteria (injury, death, suspicious in nature or obviously exceeding a specified dollar loss) are investigate by Fire Investigators in the Fire Prevention Division.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FIRE INVESTIGATIONS-Fire Prevention Division investigators were called upon to investigate the origin and cause of 18 fires.

- 14 Structures
- 2 Vehicles
- 1 Boat
- 1 Dumpster / Wild land

NOTABLE FIRE June 2, 2013:

This incident began 6/2/2013 at approximately 1820 hours with a telephone report to 911 by a resident of the structure. The caller indicated that her home was filling with smoke, she wasn't sure how to get out and that she had to call her daughter. During this short conversation with 911 operators, she began to cough and eventually disconnected.

The investigation concluded the fire originated in the bedroom of the dwelling portion of the home child day care. The greatest fire damage was in the area of the bed located on the east side of the bedroom. Although the fire was mostly contained to the living area, smoke damage was prevalent throughout the structure.

Cause: Undetermined; however, electrical failure cannot be ruled out.

NOTABLE FIRE August 12, 2013:

This fire occurred in a Retirement Center apartment and was extinguished by an automatic fire sprinkler in the area of origin prior to our arrival. The occupant of the unit reportedly sustained injuries as a result of the fire and was evacuated by the facility manager before the sprinkler operated.

Cause: The investigation concluded that the fire originated at the base of the sofa and spread to nearby combustibles as a result of lit smoking materials.

NOTABLE FIRE November 4, 2013:

This incident occurred on Monday, November 4, 2013 at approximately 1515 hours. An occupant of the single family dwelling arrived and discovered the home filled with smoke after opening the front door. The occupant called 9-1-1 to report the fire and confirmed the dwelling was not occupied at the time.

This investigation concluded the fire originated within the laundry room in the area of built-in wood cabinets at the Northeast wall. A definitive fire cause was not identified and the fire has been classified as undetermined. The fire loss of this incident is approximately 3.5 million dollars for the contents and structure. Private fire investigators are continuing to investigate and are in the process of analyzing the fire debris, conductors, appliances, and fixtures for conclusive results.

Cause: Undetermined

NOTABLE FIRE November 5, 2013:

On 11/5/2013 at approximately 06:29 hours, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred at the in this apartment building. The explosion and subsequent fire, resulted in 6 injuries and 1 fatality.

Due to the size and complexity of the fire, a total of 11 Engines, 4 Ladders, 7 Aid units, 2 Medic units, 1 MSO, 4 Battalion units, 1 Air unit, and 15 support staff responded to the event.

Cause: The investigation concluded the explosion and subsequent fire were the result of the introduction of an unknown ignition source during the extraction of hash oil and was classified as accidental. The total fire loss estimate was 2.5 million dollars.

PERSONNEL CHANGES-The Fire Prevention Division has seen some face changes during 2013.

TED ERB, FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER	DWIGHT ALTENBURG, FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER
Left the division to begin a career with the Gresham (OR) Fire Department. Ted joined the Bellevue Fire Department in 2000 as a Fire Prevention Officer. He was also a fire investigator, a member of the Department's Honor guard and a proud passionate member of the department.	Retired from the Division in January 2014. Dwight joined the Bellevue Fire Department in 2001 as a Fire Prevention Officer after 26 years with the Redmond Fire Department. Dwight was promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal – Inspections & Investigations in 2006. Dwight possessed exceptional customer service skills and was passionate about the fire service in general and fire prevention in particular.

STEVE SWARTHOUT, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL	CHRIS SPURLOCK, FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER	NANNETTE HEYE, OFFICE ASSISTANT
Steve has over 30 years of experience in the fire service and fire prevention. He started his career in the City of Redmond Fire Department as a Fire Fighter and then moved into the Fire Marshal's office as an Inspector/Investigator. He left Redmond to become the Mason County Fire Marshal in Shelton, before moving to the State Fire Marshal's office as Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal in Olympia, WA. Steve spent the last 7 years working with the Telgian Corporation as an Area Supervisor where he managed and directed the operations of the fire protection consulting group.	Chris has over 25 years of experience in the fire service and fire prevention. He started his career in the Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist. He has since served in the capacities of Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, and Coordinator of Municipal Fire Service Training. Chris has co-hosted a national award winning miniseries called "Facts on Fire" produced by Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the publication of a white paper by Fire Engineering Magazine titled, "The Impact of Perfect Information" which he co-authored.	Nannette is new to the Bellevue Fire Department. Her previous experience for the last fifteen years has been in the medical field of prosthetics and orthotics. She holds dual degrees in both Elementary Education and Journalism from Seattle University. Nannette currently serves as Office Assistant to Ken Carlson, Bellevue Fire Marshal.

Things to Watch

IMPACTS OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA – The State of Washington has legalized the production and recreational sale of marijuana. It will take some time to fully understand the impacts of this change, but the November 5, 2013 fire noted previously is certainly an unintended consequence of this change and not unique to the City of Bellevue.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD-The Fire Prevention division is working towards its efficiencies out in the field during annual inspections as well as data entry for administrative staff in the office. Currently a pilot project utilizing iPads is being tested. The use of the iPad will allow inspectors to set up appointments, write Notices of Inspections (NOI), email the NOI to the customer in a timely manner and provide the information to the Data Analyst by e-mail. This will allow the data to be input to all systems with minimal steps. Further implementation is scheduled for 2014.

THE END OF SCAN ALERT - Century Link notified customers that Scan Alert Service will cease on April 30, 2014. This date replaces earlier proposed dates and will be the final extension from CenturyLink. The reason for the discontinuation of service is that the equipment used to provide Scan Service has become very antiquated, difficult to maintain, and is at risk of catastrophic failure at any time. In the event of a failure, the Scan Service system will most likely not be repaired. In that were to occur a fire watch would be required until a replacement transmitter is installed.

Anticipating that Century Link was discontinuing this service, local fire departments created an over-the-counter permit and checklist that will help to facilitate the replacement of the Scan Service. We have sent notifications to every building owner we are aware of that currently utilizes the Scan Alert Service.

WASHINGTON SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU – Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (www.WSRB.com) is responsible for evaluating every fire department in the State of Washington and assigning a numerical score ranging from 1 to 10. The evaluation considers a range of issues that includes our equipment, personnel, water supply, dispatch system and our Fire Prevention program. WSRB last evaluated the Bellevue Fire Department in 2003 and anticipate they will be conducting a re-evaluation sometime in the near future.

NEW IMPAIRMENT PROCEDURES – When fire life/safety systems are impaired (meaning they will not function or not function as intended), the building and the occupants are potentially at risk as well as fire and/or police that respond to emergencies in the building. Our current impairment notification procedures are being evaluated in an effort to improve efficiencies and effectiveness and we anticipate implementing changes in 2014.

SMOKE & CO_2 ALARMS- Fire Prevention Division will be producing a video about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and the new requirements for having them installed. The plan is to produce them in different languages and make them available to the community. We will also work on a Public Service Announcement about what to do when your carbon monoxide detectors goes off.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

On the following pages are significant projects that are in various stages of construction or design:

SR 520 UPDATE- Plans have been reviewed and approved for the hose stations and hydrants at 76th and 84th streets on SR520. The hose stations are dry systems with water from an at grade fire hydrant supplied by a Fire Department Connection. The WSDOT Maintenance Building west of 76th Street near Lake Washington will be sprinklered with a hydrant near the building. Sprinkler and fire alarm plans have been approved for this location including the dry standpipe line to the dock for the hose station. The dock will include a fueling station for the bridge maintenance boat.

SOUND TRANSIT EASK LINK LIGHT RAIL PROJECT- Sound Transit's East Link Extension has a target start of service date of 2023; however significant amounts of planning and value engineering have been accomplished throughout the year. The final alignment was approved this year, and a significant change from the initial design was to move the downtown station from underground in 110th Ave NE, to a station with a mix of underground, at grade and elevated along NE 6th St. With the many site variations the light rail travels through, we have worked closely with operations to make sure access and emergency operations can be reached in areas such as the tunnel, retained cut, elevated guide way and stations. Although we have a while until the project is complete, there's no doubt that it will be a landmark change to Bellevue's terrain.

2013
3rd Quarter

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Downtown Bellevue

In Review

1 Main Street Gateway / Vander Hoek Corp.
10328 Main Street

- 24,475 SF Commercial
- 369 Units
- 625 Parking Stalls

Contact: Kevin Cleary at 425.454.10566

2 Bellevue Square SE Corner Expansion / Kemper Development Company
701 Bellevue Way NE

- 220,000 SF Retail / Commercial
- 204 Hotel Rooms
- 239 Residential Units
- 5 levels of below grade with 1,700 parking stalls

Contact: Michael Chaplin, Scalter Architects at 206.624.8682

3 Bellevue Apartments / LIHI
204 111th Avenue NE

- 5 Stories
- 57 Apartment Units
- 23 Parking Stalls

Contact: Jill Davies, LIHI, at 206.443.9935

4 103rd Avenue Apartments / HSL Properties
1025 103rd Avenue NE

- 175 Residential Units
- Building Height Approx. 70 FT
- 2 levels of underground parking for 180 cars

Contact: Tim Ramm, Providence Group at 949.553.4800 x8206

2013
3rd Quarter

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Downtown Bellevue

In Review

5 Alley 111
11011 NE 9th Street

- 259 Residential Units
- 76,200 SF Retail / Restaurant
- Underground parking with 247 spaces

Contact: Brandon Kelly at 206.902.5476

6 Bellevue Office Tower
833 108th Avenue NE

- 19 Story Office Building
- 2 Levels of Underground Parking
- Detached 6 Story Parking Garage Above Grade

Contact: Craig Dobbs at 206.708.6178

7 Lincoln Square Expansion
410 Bellevue Way NE

- 120 Room Hotel
- 200 Condos
- 545,000 SF Office
- 392,000 SF Retail

Contact: Dan Meyers at 425.460.5810

8 Bellevue Center
10833 NE 8th Street

- 24 Stories
- 526,132 SF Office
- 1,258 parking spaces in underground parking
- 8,500 SF Restaurant and 2,500 Retail
- Nearly 2 Acres Landscaped Plaza

2013
3rd Quarter

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Downtown Bellevue

Under Construction

1 Alamo Manhattan Main Street
10505 Main Street

- 260 Residential Units
- 7,000 SF Retail at the Ground Level
- Underground parking with 319 spaces

Contact: Robert Lamkin at 972.726.9400

2 SOMA Towers Phase I
200 106th Avenue NE

- 2 Towers, 21 and 18 Stories
- 266 Residential Units, including 34 affordable units
- 26,000 SF Retail
- 5 Levels of Parking for 395 vehicles

Contact: Linda Abe, Su Development at 425.453.8886 x313

3 Park Metro / Evergreen Point Development
11017 NE 12th Street

- 75 Units
- 111 Parking Stalls
- 35,000 SF Pedestrian Oriented Frontage
- Target Start: Unknown

Contact: Austin Kovach at 206.617.2899

4 Marriott Hotel
200 110th Avenue NE

- 376 Rooms
- 7.5 KSF Restaurant
- 440 Parking Stalls

Contact: Arne Hall at 425.269.9897

2013
3rd Quarter

Downtown Bellevue

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Under Construction

5 Bellevue at Main / SRM
15 Bellevue Way SE

- 33,000 SF Retail / Commercial
- 262 Residential Units
- 475 Parking Stalls

Contact: Andy Loos, SRM at 206.352.7873

2013
3rd Quarter

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Downtown Bellevue

Issued Design Review

1 Tateuchi Center
855 106th Avenue NE

- 2,047 Seat Performance Hall
- 3 Levels of Underground Parking
- Target Start: Summer 2012

Contact: Scott Douglas/MG2 Architects at 425.463.1291

2 The Summit Bldg C / Bentall
320 108th Avenue NE

- 300 K SF Office
- 652 Parking Stalls
- Target Finish: Unknown

Contact: John Jackson, Bentall at 206.315.3807

3 Pacific Regent Phase II
919 109th Avenue NE

- 22 Story Senior Housing / Congregate Care Community
- 168 Units
- 206 Parking Stalls
- Target Start: Unknown

Contact: Sunrise Dvmt at 650.938.2249

4 Bellevue Park II Apartments
10203 NE 1st Street

- 10,400 SF Retail / Commercial
- 160 Apartment Units
- 4 levels of below-grade parking with 213 stalls.

Contact: Mark Modawell at 425.990.1616

2013
3rd Quarter

MAJOR PROJECTS LIST

Downtown Bellevue

In the Pipeline

1 415 Office Building / Schnitzer NW
Office
415 106th Avenue NE
Contact: Greg Kletzly

2 Bellevue Cadillac / UDR
Retail / Residential
1001 106th Avenue NE
Contact: Donald Makenzie

3 Rockefeller Bellevue Tower Phase I
Office / Retail
10605 NE 8th Street
Contact: John Thomas, NBBJ