

# Fire Department Expands to include North Highline

*By Emily Inlow-Hood, Communications Officer*

After extensive contract negotiations and a vote from two separate fire commissions, the North Highline Fire District has undergone a contractual consolidation into King County Fire District #2. While North Highline Fire District still exists and maintains their own board of fire commissioners, all of their firefighters have been hired by the King County Fire District #2. The new consolidated district will provide streamlined response and chain of command for fire and emergency medical service (EMS) to areas of unincorporated King County, Burien, and Normandy Park.

When the City of Burien incorporated in 1993, the city limits spanned across two fire districts, North Highline Fire District and Burien/Normandy Park Fire District. The two fire districts worked closely together to provide the best possible fire and EMS service. Over the past two decades, contracts were established between the two entities. Each new contract improved some aspect of service. The newly consolidated districts will improve cost sharing, increase efficiencies and resources, and increase firefighter training.

“Residents of Burien, Normandy Park, and the area of unincorporated North Highline will continue to receive first-rate fire, EMS, and other emergency services as well as fire prevention services including inspections and investigations,” says Chief Mike Marrs. “Both districts have an outstanding group of talented, dedicated, and hardworking public servants who have embraced the opportunity to work together to serve our communities.”