

*Professionally and Compassionately Helping People*

## Paper Recycling Plant Fire

**Kent, Wash. - July 8, 2015-** A three-alarm fire response was needed today to battle a large pile of recycling paper in the 1200 block of 6 Ave. N. today.

Firefighters from the Kent Fire Department RFA were initially dispatched at 1:10 pm to what was described as a "large cardboard fire". When they arrived on scene they found an area of approximately ½ acre of burning paper and cardboard. Embers from the initial fire had also started fires in several large bundles of paper throughout the parking lot. The smoke made visibility difficult.

At one point the fire spread to the interior of the recycling company building. This fire was quickly extinguished and firefighters were placed above the roof of the building using ladder trucks to ensure that embers did not start more fires on that or other buildings in the immediate area.

After trying to soak the pile down with large quantities of water while other firefighters extinguished the smaller fires, diesel front-loaders were brought in to pull the pile of paper products apart where it could be extinguished in small amounts. This process is on-going due to the large quantity of product burning.

The incident was raised to 3-alarms and one Seattle Task Force in order to have sufficient firefighters able to rotate between fighting the fires and getting rehydrated due to the high air temperatures. Firefighters and support personnel from Tukwila, Seattle, Zone 3 Explorers, Medic One, Valley Regional Fire Authority, Renton, and Skyway also responded.

There were no reports of injuries and the fire is under investigation.

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