



**PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY
Matthew Morris Fire Chief

*Professionally and
compassionately helping people*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holiday Programs tradition continues at Puget Sound Fire

Kent, WA Dec 12, 2020

Puget Sound Regional Fire Authorities Holiday Programs return to help bring cheer to families in need this holiday season. Historically, Puget Sound Fire and the Kent Firefighters Foundation (the charitable branch of IAFF Local 1747) have worked with the community and the Jerry Woods Holiday Engine program to help provide food and toys for those in need during the holiday season. While the need this year is greater than ever, the pandemic response has required us to do things a little differently.

The Jerry Woods Holiday Engines will be setting up at multiple locations throughout the community on multiple nights to facilitate drive through donations for local food banks. The sites will be staffed with volunteers to ensure a safe and efficient version of this holiday tradition and will accept donations of non-perishable goods and financial support. See attached for more information.

The Toys for Joy program will continue as well, but in a modified format. Intended to help provide toys for local children in need up to 12 years old, there will be two drive-through events hosted this season instead of accepting donations at each fire station. The second drive through event is occurring this Saturday 12/12 in the parking lot of Puget Sound Fire's station 74. The community is also being asked to consider monetary donations to the Toys for Joy Program instead of toys to maximize both safety and efficiency. The firefighters of Puget Sound Fire will be matching monetary donations up to a total of \$10,000. A link to donate can be found at www.kentfirefighters.org Instead of the traditional community wrapping party, toys will be delivered unwrapped and distributed over several days to allow the Food Bank to manage the process within current restrictions. See attached for more information.

Both programs will continue to collect donations through the weekend of 12/19 and then will focus on the distribution of the toys. In addition, the Firefighters Foundation will be distributing holiday food baskets to an additional 30 families in need right before Christmas.

We thank you in advance for your generous support and are looking forward to returning to our more traditional programs next year!

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