FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Holiday Programs Begin at Puget Sound Fire

KENT, WA – November 1, 2024 – Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, Puget Sound Fire Fighters (IAFF Local 1747), and Puget Sound Firefighters Foundation proudly announce the kick-off of the 2024 Toys for Joy and Jerry Woods Holiday Engine programs to provide food and toys for those in need during the holiday season.

Toys for Joy is an annual program where new, unwrapped toys for children up to 12 years of age are collected, sorted, wrapped, and delivered to local food banks and outreach programs for distribution to families in need in local communities within Puget Sound Fire's response area. In addition to toys, non-perishable food, and monetary donations (cash and checks made out to Toys for Joy) are also accepted and used to purchase toys and necessities for local families. Community members can drop off donations at any of Puget Sound Fire's 17 fire stations. Donations will be collected through December 20.

Puget Sound Fire will be hosting community toy sorting and wrapping events at Station 75 in Kent throughout December to prepare the gifts for delivery to local food banks. These events are open to the public, and due to their popularity, reservations are required. For dates and reservation information, visit pugetsoundfire.org/toysforjoy. The public can call the holiday program at (206) 396-0765 or email holidayprograms@pugetsoundfire.org for more information.

The **Jerry Woods Holiday Engine** will be visiting several Covington, Kent, and Maple Valley neighborhoods on December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21. The engine will be collecting food, gifts, and monetary donations that will go to the local food banks for distribution. The Holiday Engine neighborhood schedules for Covington, Kent, and Maple Valley will be listed at www.holidayengine.org. Holiday engines will also visit neighborhoods in SeaTac and Tukwila on December 8 and in Kent on December 12 with routes to be posted on the Puget Sound Fire website.

Community Support – The annual Toys for Joy and Holiday Engine programs only exist because of the generous donations of the local community. Historically, that generosity has been tremendous, and this year, we respectfully ask for the community's continued support. A link to donate to Toys for Joy through the Puget Sound Firefighters Foundation 501(c)(3) can be found by visiting pugetsoundfire.ejoinme.org/toysforjoydonations or by texting TOYS4JOY to 366283.

Both programs will collect donations through December 20 and then will focus on our distribution efforts. In addition, we will distribute holiday gift baskets to approximately 45 families in need.

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