

Public Use of Fire Stations

1106.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of Whatcom County Fire District 14 owned properties by the public.

1106.2 POLICY

It is the policy of Whatcom County Fire District 14 that its fire stations are to serve their primary purpose (providing fire and EMS response) first. Therefore, in general, use of the stations by the public, including training areas, outside areas, apparatus bays, and meeting rooms is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the following uses;

- Public meetings
- Community classes not sponsored by the fire district
- Town hall meetings
- Community group meetings
- Private events
- Private classes

1106.3 EXCEPTIONS

Understanding the primary use of the District's facilities is to provide fire and EMS response to the community, there are several exceptions permissible to this policy.

1106.3.1 COMMUNITY CLASSES

With the approval of the fire chief or their designee, District sponsored community classes may be held at the District's facilities, at the Chief's discretion. These classes should have a clear community benefit, (Such as community CPR classes) and should not collect money from the public, unless it is to cover the cost of the class.

1106.3.2 USE OF FACILITY BY MEMBERS

Firefighters in good standing may request to their battalion chief the use of district facilities for personal events (ex. birthday parties, Christmas gatherings, etc). These gatherings shall in no way interfere with the normal operation of the fire district, and may be canceled at any time by a battalion chief or higher ranked officer if the gathering has the potential to interfere with District operations.

District members must leave the facility in a clean, operational order.

All other district policies shall apply to these gatherings, including the ban on alcohol on the District's property.

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Policy Manual

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1106.3.3 USE BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

The use of the District's facilities by other public agencies (ex. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement agencies, other municipal departments) may be allowed for a limited duration. These uses include, but are not limited to;

- Training
- Coordination, response, and planning for emergency incidents
- Use of District resources (phone, internet, printers, bathroom, kitchen, etc)
- Other uses as needed for the benefit of the community.

No use of district facilities by other agencies shall interfere with the District's ability to respond to fire and EMS emergencies.

All uses of the fire district's facilities by other public agencies shall be approved by the fire chief or their designee.