



Fire Station 13

FAQ'S answered



June 26, 2019

Site Design, Building Design and Surrounding Property

How will close by neighbors be disturbed?

- Currently, the neighborhood can hear sirens of fire trucks coming from Fire Station #1 downtown, and Fire Station #7 on Merrimon Avenue.
- There are about 450 calls annually in the primary area served by this station.
- The new Fire Station #13 will not result in an increase in calls, but will respond to most of the current 450 calls in this primary area as well as calls supporting other areas in the city.
 - Average number of calls per day (24 hours): 6
 - More calls happen during the day: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 - Fewer calls at night: 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

How much noise will there be from sirens? Does the fire truck's siren start when the truck leaves the station?

- The fire station building will not have a siren.
- The fire truck siren will sound as the driver starts down the station driveway.
- Otherwise, the siren will only sound when the driver sees other vehicles on the street.
- The siren alerts cyclists, vehicle drivers, and pedestrians and "asks them for the right of way."

How will the station be designed?

- The station will be designed to achieve goals in this order:
 - Decontamination, health and wellness, and safety for the firefighters are priorities.
 - The ability for firefighters and the truck to leave the station within 60 seconds of receiving a call.
 - Station to aesthetically complement the neighborhood
 - Fire Station with "pull through" design to minimize trucks backing up.

What will the functions of the building be?

- Three (3) Fire Truck garage bays
- Living quarters for firefighters
- Offices and other spaces to support fire station functions
- City Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Police substation

Will there be a community room?

- The goal is to provide a multipurpose room for City sponsored meetings.



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Traffic and Transportation

The surrounding streets are hard to drive up including Hillside and Chestnut. How will the fire trucks manage?

- Currently, City fire trucks, school buses and other large vehicles navigate the streets.
- Fire trucks “ask for the right of way.”

Will parking need to be changed on any of the surrounding streets?

- Parking on the surrounding streets will not need to be changed for the fire department.

Will there be modifications to Broadway Street such as lowered speed limits, a traffic light, or any new traffic calming measures?

- SR 1781 (Broadway) is a state-maintained street that is owned and maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The NCDOT has no immediate plans to make changes to Broadway until the major active projects like I-26 and US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) are completed.

Will there be a traffic impact analysis?

- No, a traffic impact analysis is not warranted.

Could a pedestrian crossing be provided to the Reed Creek Greenway?

- The local NCDOT Division office staff and City Transportation Department staff meet on a regular basis to discuss pedestrian and bicycle concerns and we will include this item at one of our future meetings.



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Location and Responding to Calls

Why do we need a station a mile from the downtown station?

- The City target is to respond to emergencies in 5 minutes or less.
- The City only builds a fire station where there is a significant void in coverage.
- The road networks prevent Downtown Fire Station # 1 and Merrimon Ave Fire Station # 7 from responding to this Fire Response Area within acceptable time frames.

How long does it currently take to respond to the Hillcrest and Pisgah View neighborhoods?

- Currently fire station response time is less than 5 minutes to Hillcrest and Pisgah View.

Why does the Fire Department respond to calls that are not fires?

- 50% of fire department responses are to medical emergencies because the firefighters can get to the emergency site quickly, and can support the ambulance crew, which only has 2 people, one of them being the driver.
- Fire Department response only occurs when the call is reported as life threatening.

How often are there false alarm calls to the fire department?

- Last year, out of a total of 20,000 calls the fire departments received, 2400 were false alarms.