

PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF BENICIA
City Manager's Office
250 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510



Contact: Josh Chadwick
Acting Deputy Fire Chief
(707) 746-4275
jchadwick@ci.benicia.ca.us



Welcome Engine 12 in “Wet-Down, Push-In” Ceremony Thursday, August 31st – 9:30 a.m. Fire Station 11 – 150 Military West

Benicia, CA (August 23, 2017) — The Benicia Fire Department welcomes Engine 12 to its service fleet in a traditional “wet-down, push-in” ceremony on Thursday, August 31st at 9:30 a.m. The community is invited to join firefighters, other City staff and the City Council in celebrating the arrival of this new piece of safety equipment.

The new 2017 Seagrave Pumper fire engine, a state-of-the-art front line pumper, is replacing an existing engine, a 2008 Seagrave, at Fire Station 12. The 2008 engine will become a reserve engine in the department's fleet. Industry standard for the life of a fire engine is 20 years, with 10 years as “first out” and 10 years in reserve status.

“The purchase of this new engine is an investment in the City and its citizens' safety in regards to fire response,” Acting Deputy Fire Chief Josh Chadwick stated. The 2017 Seagrave custom built pumper features a fully-enclosed stainless steel cab and a stainless-steel body that helps protect firefighters in any rollovers and other crashes. It is also equipped with 360 degree LED lighting “that turns night into day”, which is an important safety feature. It is equipped with a 500-horsepower engine, 1500 gallons per minute pump, a 500-gallon water tank. This engine will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 365 days per year.

The new engine cost approximately \$630,000, with \$448,000 of funding coming from Measure C proceeds. In 2014, the citizens overwhelmingly supported Measure C, a one-cent on the dollar sales tax measure. “Thanks to the voters, we have the funding needed to protect the community's safety,” said City Manager Lorie Tinfow.

The fire service has a long history with many traditions. The “Wet-Down, Push-In” ceremony began in the late 1800s and early 1900s when horses pulled pumpers to fires. Upon completion of the fire, the firefighters would return to the station and wash the pumper and the horses down. The firefighters would then push the pumper back into the station, as the horses were unable to back the pumper up. This signified that the pumper was ready to serve again. The tradition has transformed into a means to welcome a new piece of equipment to the department and ready it to begin serving the community.

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