



SAFE STATION

TACOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES TFD'S SAFE STATION PROGRAM

The Tacoma Fire Department launched the TFD's Safe Station Program at Fire Station 1 (901 Fawcett Ave.) on August 28, 2019.

The program offers 24-hour seven day a week help to individuals experiencing opioid use disorder, and provides an additional way to access and receive immediate opioid use disorder treatment and other needed resources.

The program provides:

- Medical assessment
- Transportation to a medical facility, as needed
- Opioid use disorder treatment assessment for outpatient services
- First medication dosage for opioid use disorder, as needed
- Connection to long-term treatment services

The program is modeled after a similar fire department-based program in Manchester, New Hampshire.

TFD'S SAFE STATIONS ARE PART OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S OPIOID RESPONSE PLAN, WHICH INCLUDES FOUR PROGRAMS:



- Narcan Distribution Program
- Community Trainings on the signs and symptoms of an overdose
- TFD's Safe Station Program
- TFD CARES and Mobile Response Unit
- For more information about the Opioid Response Plan, visit cityoftacoma.org/opioid

OPIOID USE DISORDER IS A GROWING CONCERN:

Opioids are highly addictive, and can be easily misused or abused, causing serious harm, including opiate poisoning and death. Opiate poisoning was five times higher in 2016 than 1999 and is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, surpassing fatal car accidents.

According to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

In 2015, more than 15,000 people died in the United States from opiate poisoning from prescription opioids.

In 2016 alone, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) administered 153 doses of naloxone – the life-saving reversal drug – to people who had opiate poisoning. This means nearly every other day in 2016, TFD saved someone's life from a fatal opiate poisoning.