



# City of Seattle

ACQUIRED STRUCTURE TRAINING – COVER SHEET

## SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT ACQUIRED STRUCTURE TRAINING

The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) actively seeks out buildings to use for training. For many years, the Seattle Fire Department's Acquired Structure Training (AST) program has provided valuable hands-on training for Recruit Training and Operations members. It would not be possible without the generosity of members in our community. This program exists because of generous community members like yourself.

The type of training we conduct varies based on the building type, construction, and the project timeline. We accept all types of building, with a few caveats outlined below. The SFD has three training options: *non-destructive*, *destructive*, and *live-fire training*. Our training is scalable to fit the building, from simple non-destructive training to more complicated live-fire training evolutions. Most importantly, we are flexible to adapt to the timeline of the project. It is our mission to keep the process simple and easy for those who wish to donate a building for training.

Destructive training allows SFD firefighters to realistically practice skills such as: fire attack methods (hose stretches and fire attack techniques), ventilation methods (cutting holes in the roof), forcible entry (forcibly opening doors, cutting security bars off windows, etc.), search and rescue, ladder throws, firefighter survival techniques, and occasionally live-fire training. Although a building may be used for training fires, the buildings are seldom "burned down". Our live-fire program utilizes single-family and multi-family dwellings to set controlled fires that help educate firefighters and the community alike. These controlled ignitions are aimed at helping firefighters stay safe through education while more effectively protecting people and property. Additionally, some acquired structures allow our Special Operations teams to practice specialized rescue techniques.

Although we understand the buildings are going to be torn down, and frequently have passed their useful life, we will reject buildings that are structurally unsound to the point of being hazardous. Likewise, if a building has been infested with rodents, or has been inhabited by transients and contains fecal material, syringes, etc., we may reject the building due to the bio-hazards present.

Sometimes a tax deduction may be received based on the donation of the structure to the Fire Department. An accountant or tax attorney should be consulted regarding this issue prior to making the donation if a tax deduction is being sought. The Fire Department cannot provide information in this regard.

An AST program member will be assigned to your project and they are always happy to answer any questions. They will guide you through the process. For your convenience, we created a flow chart that outlines how our donation process works. It will be sent with this letter. Generally, paperwork from start to finish only takes a few hours, at most. In many cases, we can mobilize units to train at the site within 24 hours after a site visit by your AST program representative and an SFD Safety Chief.



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Requirements for donation to the Seattle Fire Department are as follows:

- The building must be within the Seattle city limits.
- A demolition permit must be issued. (Our destructive training is considered demolition)
- All utilities must be disconnected.
- An asbestos survey is required. (Required for demolition permit)
- Proof of ownership and the discontinuance of damage insurance are required.
- Letters are exchanged authorizing fire department use of the building, and our responsibilities to the property owner.
- If seeking a tax deduction, an appraisal per IRS form 8283, must be conducted prior to the SFD performing drills.

Ideally, we like to have a building donated for training over several days. Some sites and timelines allow for a longer training cycle, others do not. A few sites have allowed weeks of training, based on their demolition schedule. Training over a weekend often allows the maximum use of the structure by our personnel. It helps minimize the impact to the local neighborhood.

While we have a training facility graciously provided to us by the citizens of Seattle, acquired structures provide a level of realism in training that can't be replicated in a fixed facility. These structures are an incredible learning platform and provide one last community service at the end of their useful life. It also allows the community to see their firefighters at work. Our community members are always welcome to come watch and learn, from a safe distance of course. Our firefighters love to share stories.

If you have any questions, or are interested in donating a structure, contact the Seattle Fire Department In-Service Training Coordinator at (206) 386-1772. If email is more convenient, contact the following AST program members and they would be happy to answer any questions or begin the process.

Capt. Kevin Flanagan  
Firefighter Jordan Legan

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[Jordan.legan@seattle.gov](mailto:Jordan.legan@seattle.gov)

Thank you.