## Square Footage Calculation Guide

## Fire Benefit Charge

The fire department relies on data collected by the King County Assessor's Office to calculate the Fire Benefit Charge for each parcel. The Fire Benefit Charge is based on the total square footage of a structure rather than just the livable space that most homes refer to when speaking of square footage. That means garages, unfinished basements, covered decks, and larger outbuildings are included in the square footage calculations used by the fire district.

To check your square footage on record with the Assessor's Office, go to http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/gis/Maps/parcel-viewer.aspx and follow the directions below.

1) Click "Start Parcel Viewer". Enter your address then click "Search".

2) An information box with a basic overview of your parcel will pop up. Scroll to the bottom of this box and click "Property Report".

3) Click on "Property Detail" at the top of the page.

4) Scroll down to the "Building" section. This will give information for all structures on your property which are subject to the Fire Benefit Charge. As previously mentioned, this includes:
unfinished basements, attached garages, and any other structures on your property. The total
square footage of $\underline{A L L}$ structures is used to calculate your benefit charge.

For example: The square footage for this parcel listed on the "Property Report" page (Step 3) was 3,300 square feet, however upon looking at the "Building" section, we see that it also has an attached garage with an area of 480 sq . ft. The attached garage is also subject to the Fire Benefit Charge, therefore a total square footage of 3,780 would be used to calculate this parcel's charge (1st floor: 1,650 + Basement: 1,650 + Attached Garage: $480=3,780$ sq. ft.).


