



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

Chief's Report

August 10, 2023

Mission

Save Lives, Protect Property, Safeguard the Environment, and Take Care of People

Vision

We will be a proactive regional emergency services leader by partnering to provide safe communities for people to live, work and explore.

Guiding Values

Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Teamwork, Service

OPERATIONS

Congratulation Driver/Operator Bill Ekse

On Monday, August 7, at Station 71, SRFR honored the great contributions and career of Bill Ekse at his retirement flag ceremony. We thank Bill for all he has given to the community and the fire/EMS service. We wish him well as he opens a new life chapter. Thank you Bill!

Significant Alarms

Commercial Fire

On July 22, SRFR and mutual aid units from Snohomish County were dispatched to 19400 SR 527 for smoke from the roof of a flooring store. Firefighters arrived to find a fire inside the building and forced entry into the structure, stretched an attack line, and quickly extinguished the fire. There were no signs of extension to the attic space. Great job by all firefighters involved!

Two Alarm Residential Fire

On July 21, SRFR units responded to a house fire outside the Monroe city limits. It was initially reported as the back of a house on fire. Firefighters noted a large smoke column when leaving Station 31 and arrived to find a medium, two-story house, with a working fire on both floors with extension to the attic. The fire was spreading to the surrounding vegetation as well. The initial units focused on fire control, while the 2nd alarm units were primarily assigned to control the surrounding vegetation fire. Water supply and heat were both significant factors. Firefighters controlled the house fire and established a perimeter on the surrounding vegetation. Firefighters returned to the structure throughout the night to verify there were no spot fires.

Fire Suppression / Special Operations

Near Drowning Incident

On July 29th, Boat 31 was dispatched to a water rescue on the Skykomish River in Sultan. SRFR Firefighter Brandon Huber was at home in Sultan and responded to assist. Firefighter Huber



arrived prior to any fire department response units or personnel. A family had been swimming in the Skykomish River, and their seven-year-old child went missing and was found underwater. The family pulled the child from the water and began CPR. Firefighter Huber assisted the family with CPR until the arrival of SCFD #5 response personnel. The child regained a heartbeat and began breathing on his own prior to being transported to a hospital for further medical care. Thank you to Brandon Huber for the amazing work and commitment to his community!

Emergency Medical Services

Suction Units

We have purchased 13 new suction units and placed them in service. Our older models were having trouble holding a substantial charge. Our new model was researched and recommended by our own Paramedic Christian Wigington.

GlideScope Demo

Our current model of GlideScope (video laryngoscopy device used for intubation) is aging and will need to be replaced soon. We had two reps from Verathon come to Station 71 and allowed us to demo their new products, providing insight into the options prior to purchase.

Training & Safety

Acting Driver & Acting Lieutenant

Congratulations to Driver/Operator David Pick for completing the Acting Lieutenant requirements. Congratulations to Adam Perron and Travis Rask for completing their Acting Driver requirements. Thank you all for your commitment to making this department better!

HazMat Block Training

The Training Division, with help from the SRFR HazMat Team members, instructed eight days of hands-on HazMat training in late July and early August. The training focused on operations level hazmat response, specifically on rescue and keeping our personnel safe. Thank you to Scott Rybar and the SRFR HazMat team for the great training!

Water Supply Operations Consultation

SRFR hosted Dennis LeGear for a Water Supply Operations Consultation on August 1 and 2. Dennis LeGear came to SRFR to work with the Engine Operations Committee to provide the knowledge necessary to ensure we are addressing important issues that are specific to our agency including water supply infrastructure, engine apparatus design, hose & nozzles packages, hose bed configuration/layout, and associated standard practices.

Who is Dennis LeGear?

During his career as a firefighter, Dennis was an integral part of the team that implemented a new engine configuration for the Oakland Fire Department as the water supply officer. After his retirement he continued to pursue this role but as a consultant for other fire departments. Dennis



has provided technical advice to some of the largest fire agencies in the nation including Portland, Seattle, Boston, and the City of New York. Dennis consulted with water municipalities assisting in the development of emergency response plans for a variety of water infrastructure problems related to seismic events and other disasters. Dennis has also played a key role for the fire service on a national level participating in UL studies on fire streams, providing technical knowledge for Pennwell publications and NFPA standards. <http://www.hydrant2nozzle.com/>

PLANNING

Office of the Fire Marshal

Annual fire and life safety inspections are being performed on all the commercial properties that are located in the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and Sultan. There have been approximately 1,000 inspections performed by the Deputy Fire Marshals in the Office of the Fire Marshal so far to date. Businesses are encouraged to review the current top ten deficiencies noted below and make corrections prior to an inspection:

1. Exit sign batteries require a 90-minute duration test
2. Fire extinguishers missing – need one located every 75 feet
3. Emergency light batteries require a 90-minute duration test
4. Occupancy address is missing or not meeting the minimum size requirement of 6 inches
5. Fire extinguishers not being hung on the approved hangers
6. Building Knox box keys are out of date – will not allow firefighter access into the building. Please call the fire department if you are re-keying your building.
7. Electrical panels having storage in front of them – need to keep clear a minimum of 36 inches
8. Exit signs not being illuminated with building power – burned out bulbs
9. Fire extinguishers being out of date – need to be replaced or recertified by a technician
10. Open electrical junction boxes – missing protective covers on boxes and switches

Community Relations

Aquafest

Over the weekend of July 29 and 30, the Community of Lake Stevens celebrated Aquafest. Consistent with tradition, SRFR Firefighters served up some delicious pancakes, ham, eggs, juice, coffee, and good cheer in the apparatus bay and apron of Station 81. There were smiles aplenty even in the long line waiting for the culinary goodness. SRFR also hosted a first aid tent and Chief O'Brien had the opportunity to host the highly competitive Simon Says match. Thanks to all involved!



National Night Out

On August 1, SRFR had a great turnout at all our National Night Out locations in Monroe, Lake Stevens, and Willis Tucker Park. We thank everyone who helped make the night a success! There were over 3000 people at Lake Tye and just as many at Willis Tucker.

Upcoming Community Events

- Lake Stevens Farmers Market 8/9
- Echo Lake Block Party 8/13
- Lake Stevens Back to School Event 8/19
- Monroe Fair Days Parade 8/26
- Monroe Resource Fair 8/30
- Fire Prevention Week Open House 10/14

Public Information

Social Media Snapshot: July 20 – August 6

- 53 Posts
- 159 New Followers/Accounts
- 313,612 Impressions/Engagement/Clicks

External Media

- 8/2 KOMO 4 "Repeat fires around Monroe homeless camp spark concern from officials"
 - <https://komonews.com/news/local/monroe-homeless-crisis-fire-encampment-camp-homelessness-crime-illegal-rescue-burn-snohomish-regional-dangers-mitigation-wsdot-extinguish-bolt-creek-wildfire-washington-seattle-officials>
- 8/4 KOMO 4 "Family's rescued 8-foot alligator dies in Lake Stevens house fire"
 - <https://komonews.com/news/local/lake-stevens-house-fire-alligator-die-death-burn-home-residence-snohomish-county-fire-rescue-vernon-road-marysville-everett-getchell-police-marshal-investigation>
- 8/4 Herald "Snohomish County water safety camps teach kids life-saving skills."
 - <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/house-fire-leaves-alligator-dead-in-lake-stevens/>
- 8/4 KIRO 7 "8' Alligator, among other reptiles killed in Lake Stevens house fire"
 - <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/8-foot-alligator-among-reptiles-killed-lake-stevens-house-fire/RZCAX5DNBZF2XNFFI2B6SAZSRU/>

Internal Media

- East Lake Stevens Brushfire 7/5
- Lake Stevens House Fire 7/5
- Monroe House Fire 7/20



- NNO Promos
- Pancake Feed Promo
- Ladder 71 Visits Lemonade Stand
- Monroe Safety Assessment
- Hoover Family with Kirland Fire
- Mechanic Job Posting
- Monroe Encampment Fire
- Firefighter Job Posting
- Aquafest Pancake Feed
- Josh and the Boat Parade
- NNO Event
- 988 Lifeline

ADMINISTRATION

Promotions

Driver/Operator

Congratulations to Luke Bagley, Steve Johnson, and Kirk Dunham on their promotion to Driver/Operator!

Battalion Chief

Congratulations to Brendan Grace on his promotion to Battalion Chief!

Thanks to the candidates and all involved in both promotional processes!

SRFR Admin Support Squad

On August 2, District Administrative Coordinators Mel Jenkins and Brandon Vargas lead their team in a planning and teambuilding workshop. Their focus was supporting the mission of the District and building their team.

Regional Partnership Planning

On August 8, Executive Staff members met with BERK Consulting to assist in regional partnership planning. The Snohomish County Fire Chiefs have hired BERK to work with the Snohomish County Fire Districts to develop a study that targets areas of potential partnerships. Preliminary areas of discussion include training and EMS. The study should be completed this fall.

Lake Stevens Chamber Member Appreciation

On August 9, staff attended the annual Lake Stevens Chamber Member Barbeque at Lundeen Park. Despite the liquid sunshine, the event was a great success. Special thanks to Chamber Board and SRFR member Laana Larson for her work on the Board!



KUDOS

Firefighter Brandon Huber

A sincere thank you to Brandon Huber for his immediate off-duty response to help the child involved in the near drowning incident in Sultan. Brandon's actions contributed to saving a life.

Team SRFR

A hearty thank you to Team SRFR for your involvement in Aquafest and National Night Out. The events were a great success!

Thanks to all SRFR team members for your hard work and dedication each day!

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief

