

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to newly promoted **Assistant Chief of Operations, Ryan Lundquist!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Assistant Chief of Planning, Mike Messer!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Deputy Chief of Training & Safety, Michael McConnell!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Deputy Chief of EMS, Vincent Read!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Deputy Chief of Operations, Colby Titland!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Battalion Chief, Justyn Shevlin!**

## NEW HIRES:



Join us in welcoming our new **Public Information & Education Officer (PIEO), Peter Mongillo**. He will support the Planning Section with communications, public outreach, and education. Pete comes to us with extensive experience in photojournalism. He was raised in Bothell and is a life-long Washingtonian. Over his career, he has shared thousands of stories, including those featuring fire districts, and he hopes to continue sharing these stories in his new position!

## FIREHOUSE FEATURE

### SRFR WATER RESCUE TEAM

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has three major rivers, the county's largest lake, and countless, smaller bodies of water within our jurisdiction. These waterways are heavily trafficked during the summer months and are often the spots where we respond to water related rescue calls; such as missing person(s), capsized boats, vehicle submersion, flooding, and drowning incidents.

In order to adequately respond to these emergencies, Snohomish Regional has a special team that trains for these specific rescues. The Water Rescue Team is comprised of personnel who are highly trained in swift water rescue, boat operations, rescue swimming, free diving, and long distance swims. This team trains regularly and has hosted a regional Water Rescue Academy that prepares first responders for a wide variety of water rescue calls.

The team also focuses on training youth about water safety. Team members helped create our Home Education Lesson about buoyancy and water safety, and they also host two water safety camps throughout the summer. At camp, kids are taught about life jackets, paddling safety, boat safety, and situational awareness. After a two-year break, these camps are set to take place this summer and parents will be able to register youth on our website in the coming months!

The Water Rescue Team reminds residents to use life jackets on waterways this spring and summer, and be sure to use caution whenever boating or spending time around open water. Your team at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is constantly working to serve you to the best of our abilities. One way we do that is with special teams like our Water Rescue Team! Learn more about how you or someone you know can pursue a career in the fire service by visiting [SRFR.org](http://SRFR.org).

Sign up for our youth water safety camp by following the QR code:




# SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

## SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

Spot the Differences: What Is Not Safe?

Spot the Differences: What Is Safe?

Fun for the whole family!  
CHECK OUT OUR HOME EDUCATION LESSONS!

- ★ Always wear a helmet.
- ★ Wear brightly colored clothes to be seen better.
- ★ Make sure to ride on the sidewalk, and stay away from cars.
- ★ Always stop at STOP signs and traffic lights.
- ★ If you need to cross a street, walk your bike across; don't ride.

## KIDS CRNER

### BIKE SAFETY TIPS!

## RETIREMENT:



Congratulations to **Lieutenant Mike Hill** on his retirement after 35 years in the fire service!



Please join us in welcoming our newest recruit firefighters (top left to right): **Lorenzo Mendoza, Patrick Siler, Mason Timm, Brad Gilbert, Chris Pack**, (bottom left to right) **Robby Vaughn, Ross Fahlen, Matthew Fineman, Caitlin Dantzcher, Nick Deline**. These positions were filled to replace vacancies due to retirements and attrition.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) serves 180,655 residents in Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. We also provide emergency services to the city of Mill Creek on a contract basis through 2022. SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 calls per year with highly trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs and equipment.

Your support makes this possible through a fire levy and a levy for emergency medical services. Last November, voters returned our fire levy to the statutory limit of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. THANK YOU! Funding will hire firefighters and paramedics, two deputy fire marshals and a medical services officer. It also will improve training programs, and complete fire station projects.

Improvements like these are important as we seek accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. This process assesses everything that the Fire District does from emergency response to financial stewardship. Communities served by accredited agencies benefit from faster response times, less loss of life and property, and pay less in fire insurance premiums.

SRFR's contract with the city of Mill Creek will end December 31, 2022. We feel strongly that all property owners should pay the same rate for service. As a result, the City has indicated that it wants to annex or contract with South County Fire to the west. Please note that there will be no interruptions in the quality or level of service you receive.

SRFR is an exceptional organization providing the highest level of care for residents. Our cardiac save rate is twice the national average. We are hiring deputy fire marshals to check businesses and all new construction to make sure it complies with fire and life safety codes. We're in our local schools teaching fire safety lessons, and we offer safety classes for adults and seniors. We will also be offering two water safety camps for children this summer.

This is possible because of your personal and financial support – and we are grateful. Thank you again, and please reach out if we can be of service.

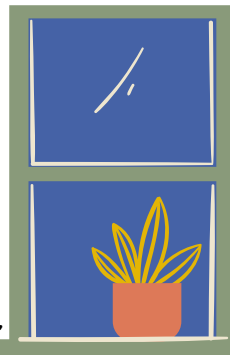
Respectfully,

Kevin K. O'Brien  
Your Fire Chief



# PREVENTING WINDOW FALLS

As spring approaches and the weather becomes nicer, we tend to start opening our windows at home to allow the fresh air in. This is also the time of year that medical professionals see a spike in youth window falls. Falls are more common than we think. Every year almost 5,000 children are injured after a window fall, and most of the children are between 2-5 years old. In our region, window falls seem to be on the rise. Last year, Snohomish County experienced a record breaking number of child window falls.



Children are curious by nature, anatomically top heavy, and can fall through a window opened more than 4 inches. Any fall through a window is dangerous, even if the child is on the first floor of the home. The National Safety Council has designated the first week in April as Window Safety Week.

Here are three things you can do to reduce the risk of a window fall:

## 1 INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS AND STOPS

Never open windows more than 4 inches to prevent young children from falling out. Remember, screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Properly installed window guards prevent unintentional window falls. Install window guards that include an emergency release device in case of a fire. Window stops are also a great idea. They allow fresh air and a cross breeze and still ensure windows cannot open wide enough for kids to fall out.

## 2 CLOSE WINDOWS AFTER USE

If you have windows that can open from both top and bottom, make a habit of opening just the top to prevent accidental falls. Keep in mind that as kids grow, they may have enough strength, dexterity and curiosity to open the bottom, so try to keep windows locked and closed when they are not being used. If you visit a place where windows are not childproofed, close and lock them during your visit, and watch your child carefully.

## 3 KEEP KIDS FROM CLIMBING NEAR WINDOWS

Move chairs, tables, cribs and other furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls. Also, teach children not to play near windows. Make it a house rule to play at least 2 feet from windows. Never move a child who appears to be seriously injured after a fall – call 911 and let trained medical personnel move the child with proper precautions.



For more prevention tips visit <https://www.safekids.org/falls>

# CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS. CHECK YOUR ALARMS!



This last month we adjusted our clocks for daylight saving time, and this is always a moment that we like to remind people to check their alarms while changing their clocks. When people are asked when they last tested their smoke alarms, it is likely that few would be able to recall when they had. If smoke alarms aren't tested regularly, knowing whether they're in working order is uncertain and potentially life-threatening.

Smoke alarms save lives by detecting and alerting people to fire in its early stages, giving them the time needed to escape safely, but they must be functioning properly. According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported home fire nearly in half.

By taking the following simple steps, SRFR residents can ensure their households' safety from fire:

- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms older than 10 years. This includes alarms with 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms. Check the manufacture date on the back of the alarm. Alarms should not be more than ten years past this date. Note that the manufacture date may differ from the date of installation.



# PEDESTRIAN & HELMET SAFETY

As the weather starts to warm up, even more people are headed outside to enjoy the sunshine. Drivers and pedestrians share the responsibility of keeping themselves and other travelers safe. We want to remind all drivers to be aware of their surroundings, as well as remind pedestrians and bike riders how they can have a safer trip.

- Pedestrians should always use sidewalks or paths and only cross the street at marked crosswalks or intersections.
- Put your phone down. Many people are distracted by electronics while driving and crossing the street.
- Watch for turning vehicles and make eye contact with the driver before crossing the street.
- Pedestrians and bike riders need to wear bright clothes at night to be seen by drivers.

According to SafeKids Worldwide, wearing a properly fitted bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by 45%. However, less than half of children 14 and under wear a bike helmet. A helmet should be worn by everyone in the family every time you ride a bike, scooter, skateboard, skate, snowboard, or ski - and it needs to fit properly. Additionally, any helmet that has been involved in a crash needs to be replaced immediately - even if there aren't any visible signs of damage.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue provides FREE bike and multisport helmets throughout the year at various events throughout our district. Follow our social media pages for updates about the next bike helmet event near you!

Need a bike helmet but cannot afford one? Contact us at [CommunityRelations@SRFR.org](mailto:CommunityRelations@SRFR.org), and we may be able to help. Please note that supplies are limited.

In addition to monthly testing, make sure you have the recommended amount of smoke alarms in your home. They should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced.

When providing information about smoke alarms, we are often asked what type of alarm is best. Essentially, there are two different types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric.

- An ionization alarm is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a pan fire.
- A photoelectric alarm is typically more responsive to a smoldering fire, as might occur where a lighted cigarette is dropped on a sofa.

Combination smoke alarms have ionization and photoelectric capabilities. In accordance with NFPA, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue recommends installing either combination alarms, or both types of alarms, in bedrooms, as well as throughout the home. When shopping for alarms look for the words "multi-sensor" or "dual-sensor". Whichever type of smoke alarms you choose, make sure they are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Want to learn more? Sign up for our next Home Fire Safety class at [SRFR.org](http://SRFR.org).

Sign up for the next Home Fire Safety class by using the QR code:



Find out more about our bike helmet program by using the QR code:

