



## **Chief's Report**

**January 12, 2022**

### **Commissioner Snyder and Commissioner Woolery**

Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue honors the service of Commissioners Bill Snyder and Randy Woolery. The Commissioner's terms ended on 1/1/22. We thank both for their many years of leadership and dedicated service.

### **Chief Jamie Silva**

Congratulations to Chief Jamie Silva on his retirement on December 31, 2021. Greatly respected by the community and fellow members of SRFR, Chief Silva has been a great leader, mentor, and friend to all. SRFR honored Chief Silva with a flag lowering ceremony on Thursday, December 30, 9:00 a.m. at Station 31.

### **Mill Creek**

On December 14, the Mill Creek City Council passed a resolution supporting the exploration of an annexation with South County RFA. The passage of the resolution came after the Mill Creek Staff evaluated service proposals from SRFR and SCRFA. Prior to an annexation, the SCRFA Commissioners will have to formally approve the annexation. The voters in Mill Creek will also have to approve an annexation. An April annexation vote is being considered.

There are still many hurdles ahead for SRFR's termination of service in Mill Creek to occur. Regardless of the outcome, we will continue to be a strong, progressive, regional leader in fire and EMS. No jobs will be lost and at the end of the day and we plan to keep all SRFR members at SRFR. No matter what, we will continue excellent service to our communities in Clearview, Monroe, Lake Stevens, and beyond.

The Operations Section is currently developing a transition plan. SRFR is seeking input from all members through the chain of command. If you have thoughts or ideas about future operations, please give your ideas to your officer. We will keep you posted on future developments.

## **Operations**

### **Significant Alarms**

Mobile Home Fire, Lake Stevens, December 31: Firefighters responded to a fully involved mobile home fire down a long driveway. Due to the snowy weather conditions, the first due engine was unable to reach the structure; however, the firefighters quickly adapted and performed an extended hose lay to extinguish the fire. Three occupants were treated and transported due to smoke inhalation injuries. The cause of the fire was suspicious and is under investigation by the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office.



Apartment Fire, Lake Stevens, December 30: Firefighters arrived at an apartment building to find a fire on the second floor. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and confined it to the apartment of origin. One occupant was treated for smoke inhalation injuries, but the patient's injuries were minor and no transport was needed. Due to weather conditions, The Red Cross was not available, so the firefighters gave the occupants money for lodging from the Fire 7 Foundation. The Fire 7 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established by SRFR firefighters. The mission of the Foundation is to support the community and fire service family during times of need through financial, education and emotional means. For more information about the Fire 7 Foundation go here: [Fire 7 Foundation](#)

House Fire, Granite Falls, January 6, 2022: Firefighters responded to a defensive fire with Granite Falls on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a fully involved, two-story house and crews were operating in a defensive strategy. Battalion 81 assisted with incident command and firefighters quickly controlled the fire. Due to the heavy fire load in the house, firefighters remained outside the home in a defensive firefighting strategy and part of the house eventually collapsed. No injuries to civilians or responders occurred.

### **Fire Suppression / Special Operations**

The new Deputy Chief of Operations, Colby Titland started on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He has been focused on meeting with the Battalion Chiefs, and Team Coordinators for the Special Operations Teams (HazMat, Technical Rescue and Water Rescue). Meetings have included seeking input regarding future operational deployment models. As noted above, please give your thoughts and ideas to your officer.

The Operations Division will be working on goals for 2022 based on the Strategic Plan.

### **Training & Safety**

#### Probationary & Recruit Firefighters

- Class 21-01 of Probationary Firefighters completed all requirements of Probation and will be promoted to Firefighter I on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Class 21-02 of Recruit Firefighters were assigned to shift as Probationary Firefighters on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Class 22-01 of Recruit Firefighters began their Pre-Academy on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be assigned to the SCFTA on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### L&I FIIRE Program

SRFR is actively participating in the L&I FIIRE Firefighter Illness & Injury Reduction program. This program focuses on prevention and total wellness for employees. L&I will present in-person training for the Safety Committee later this month.



### COVID Playbook & Return to Work

The team has evaluated and updated the COVID Playbook & the COVID Return to Work Guidelines for SRFR. Considerations included recommendations from the CDC, updates from Force Protection, and the needs of the organization.

## **Planning**

### **Office of the Fire Marshal**

We are beginning plans to recruit two new fire inspectors. The new team members will be assigned to complete annual fire and life safety inspections.

### **Community Relations**

Our Program Specialist Laana Larson has been voted in for an additional two years as Board Secretary for the Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce. Our dedicated involvement with the Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce is a great way to connect with our Lake Stevens community and strengthen partnerships. It also provides a platform for us to communicate our SRFR messages and gain a better understanding of the local business perspective. Thank you Laana!

We participated in the end of year Lake Stevens Aquafest Board Meeting and Michele Hampton has been elected as Board President. The Board voted unanimously to move forward with hosting the Aquafest Festival for 2022. The festival dates have been set for July 29-31, 2022. Fingers crossed that SRFR is able to host our world famous Aquafest Pancake Breakfasts!

We are in the process of interviewing numerous well-qualified candidates for the Public Information and Education Officer. We hope to have a job offer made by mid-February.

### **Office of the Fire Marshal**

We are beginning plans to recruit two new fire inspectors. The new team members will be assigned to complete annual fire and life safety inspections. We hope to have them on board by the third quarter of 2022 with the approval of budget reinfusion.

### **Strategic Analysis**

We are working with First Watch to align our new Standard of Cover with program capabilities. Target completion is the third quarter of 2022.

## **Administration**

### **Finance**

Fire inspection payments have been set up to accept credit cards as payments beginning in 2022. This greatly improves customer services for the public.



Finance is working on completion of end of the year reconciliation and development of the comprehensive version of the 2022 budget.

### **Commissioner and Executive Staff Workshop**

Staff are preparing for a Commissioner and Executive Staff workshop scheduled for February 15, 16, and 17. Topics at the workshop are slated to include the Strategic Plan, Standards of Cover, Capital Facilities Plan, Accreditation, Policies, Mill Creek, and other topics.

Thanks to all for your hard work and dedication! Looking forward to an awesome 2022!

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief

