



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

Chief's Report

May 12, 2022

OPERATIONS

FF DO D.J. Mattern and Lt. Jamal Beckham

Firefighter/Driver-Operator D.J. Mattern and Lieutenant Paramedic Jamal Beckham have been selected by the Washington State Veterans of Foreign Wars for Firefighter/EMT of the year. They will be honored on Friday, June 17 in Spokane at the Washington State VFW annual banquet. Both individuals have been excellent emergency responders throughout their careers. They are true professionals who deliver a high level of service at every alarm.

Lt. Jamal Beckham is an 19-year veteran of the fire service and is the county lead for water rescue. Jamal is responsible to manage and oversee the 40 members of the water rescue team. DJ Mattern is a 20-year veteran of the fire service and has been a member of the water rescue team for many years. Lt Beckham and DJ Mattern are also active members with Snohomish County Technical Rescue team. They are both currently assigned to Station 31 in downtown Monroe.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has three major rivers and countless lakes within its jurisdiction where we respond to water related rescue calls; such as missing person(s) in swim areas, capsized boats, vehicles into the water, flooding and other water related incidents. The Water Rescue Team is highly trained in swift water rescue, boat operations, rescue swimming for free diving to 40 feet deep, and long-distance swims.

Last summer, Lt. Beckham and FF Mattern were key responders in a very difficult recovery a child who drowned. They performed heroically in a very difficult situation. Below is a description taken from their supervisor:

On June 28, 2021 while operating at Incident #2021-00008262, you responded on Boat 31. The call was for a four-year-old child that had gone into the waters of the Beckler River. B53 was running the incident when you and your crew arrived to assist. There were many confirmed reports the child was in the water and had been seen going down stream. The Beckler River had unusually high flows for this time of year and water was moving rapidly. This made the entry into the water by your team an extremely HIGH-RISK operation that could have easily caused personal injury or death.

Knowing the capabilities of yourself and your crew, upon arriving on the scene you notified Command that you could put in with inflatable kayaks where the child was last seen. You launched your kayaks and went into Class 2-3 water in an area that was not conducive to any type of watercraft. With the fast-moving water and many obstructions (strainers) in the river, you were able to locate the child who was stuck on an object in the water. You and your other



crew member performed a difficult retrieval of the child and were able to get the child to a location where all three of you were extracted by helicopter.

Congratulations FF DO Mattern and Lt. Beckham! We are all honored to serve with you.

Fire Recruit Academy Graduation

Congratulations to our ten new firefighters who successfully graduated from the Snohomish County Fire Recruit Academy. The graduation ceremony was held at Snohomish County Fire District 4 Headquarters on May 5. B.C. Brian Hyatt gave an excellent Keynote speech. The firefighters are currently assigned to post academy training and will be assigned to shift in next two weeks.

The ten SRFR graduate firefighters are:

- Caitlin Dantzscher
- Nicholas Deline
- Ross Fahlen
- Matthew Fineman
- Bradley Gilbert
- Lorenzo Mendoza
- Christopher Pack
- Patrick Siler
- Mason Timm
- Robby Vaughn

Thanks to all who assisted the new firefighters in the academy especially, the cadre, Lt. Sam Langheld, and the Company Officers; Lt. John Cook, Lt. Chris Harrott, and Lt. Randy Mickels.

Battle of the Badges 2022

On Sunday, May 1, SRFR and the Monroe Police Department met on the baseball diamond at Lake Tye Park to compete in the annual Battle of the Badges charity baseball game. The event supports the Big Heart Big Smile Foundation which helps children in need. It was a great day and a fun game. Our hats are off to Monroe PD as they came up with more runs and won the game. Thanks to Coach Scott Rybar for leading the SRFR team. We will get them next year!

Water Rescue Training

During the week of May 2, SRFR hosted our annual water rescue academy. Twenty students from five agencies attended. Special thanks to the SRFR water rescue team. SRFR is fortunate to have high caliber water rescue technicians who lead the way.



Fire 7 Foundation

A hearty thank you to SRFR firefighters who through the Fire 7 Foundation, recently helped a family who lost everything in a fire in the Lake Roesiger area. The Fire 7 Foundation made a generous financial donation to help the family buy clothing and other personal items.

The Fire 7 Foundation was created by SRFR firefighters and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the foundation is to support the community and fire service family during times of need through financial, education and emotional means.

The Fire 7 Foundations supports the ongoing health, safety, education and wellness of firefighters and the great community we serve.

Examples of past giving include:

- Firefighters recognize a need and buy a coat for a citizen in need
- Financial support for the Community CRP program
- Holiday gift giving to community members in need
- Financial assistance to the Adolescent Shoe Program

To donate to the Fire 7 Foundation please go to the website fire7.org.

Lake Stevens Chamber Luncheon

On May 5, staff attended the Lake Stevens Chamber Luncheon. The Luncheon included a presentation regarding the economy and retail sales in the State of Washington.

Evergreen Hospital Monroe

Thank you to Evergreen Hospital in Monroe for hosting a lunch to honor first responders on May 11. Representatives from SRFR, Gold Bar Fire, and Monroe Police attended.

Monroe Pastors Association

On May 12, Chief O'Brien and D.C. Read spoke with the Monroe Pastor's Association about the need for and duties and responsibilities of chaplains. SRFR is actively recruiting chaplains.

Vaccine Mandate Accommodation Review

Human Resources is in the process of reviewing accommodations on an individual basis for employees who have a religious or medical exemption regarding the Governor's Vaccine Mandate. Our goal is to be able to offer shift work accommodations by June 1.

Apparatus and Vehicle Replacement Plan

Staff are in the process of auditing and updating the SRFR Apparatus and Vehicle Replacement Plan. The Plan tracks the future replacement for district's fleet of fire engines, ladder trucks, aid units, and all other vehicles. Staff is anticipates presenting the updated Plan to the Board and Finance Committee on May 31.



PLANNING

Community Relations

Public Education Updates:

School YTD: 2nd Grade Classes Visited: **36 out of 77**

High School Classes: **14 Classes** (Firefighter Careers, Hands Only CPR)

- **April 7th - May 5th**
 - Monroe High School: **1**
 - Cavelero Mid-High: **13**
- Scheduled: **4 (2nd Grade)**

Adult & Senior Safety Classes YTD: **6**

- April 13 Disaster Preparedness Class: **7 Attendees**
- The next class is Aging in Place on **May 11th**

Birthday Messages & Letters to Students

- 2 Birthday Messages
- Letters sent to students at Kokanee Elementary and Highland Elementary in response to letters received from four 2nd Grade Classes (3 Kokanee, 1 Highland)

Social Media Snapshot: **April 7th – May 4th**

- **70** Posts
- **128** New Followers/Accounts
- **143,277** Impressions/Engagement/Clicks

External Media:

- King 5: Peyton Rings the Bell
- Komo: MVC, BC Photos
- Everett Herald: Vaccine Mandate
- Seattle Times: Vaccine Mandate
- Q13: Vaccine Mandate
- Undivided by Brandi Kruse
- Water Rescue Academy Feature

Internal Media:

- Peyton Rings the Bell
- Calandrillo Visit
- Home Education Lesson Intro



The Communications Team is working on prepping and compiling information for the Summer 2022 Newsletter and the 2021 Annual Report.

The Communications Team is also working on coordinating the following events:

- Mock DUI at North Creek High School: May 26th
- Lake Stevens Health & Wellness Festival: June 26th
- Water Safety Camps: July 11th and 19th
- Aquafest: July 29th – 31st
- National Night Out: August 2nd

PES Kaitlin King and PIEO Peter Mongillo continue to work with our webmaster to update our SRFR website with current content on the following pages:

- About Us section
- Recruitment/Employment section

With appreciation for our responders, all staff, commissioners, and community,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief