



## **Chief's Report**

**July 28, 2022**

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **Significant Alarms**

On July 11, the East Battalion and Duvall Fire responded to a Swiftwater Rescue on the Skykomish River near the Lewis Street Boat Launch. Battalion 31 arrived with Boat 31 and began to search south for three reported victims that were stuck on a log jam and unable to self-rescue. KC Boat 166 launched at the Crescent Lake Boat Launch and began to search north. KC Boat 166 located the three victims and safely removed them to the Crescent Lake Boat Launch. MSO71 and M71 were at the Crescent Lake Boat Launch and evaluated all three victims. Two were not injured and one was transported for further evaluation.

#### **Evergreen State Fair**

Staff attended a Pre-Fair Safety and Planning meeting with regional response partners including police and emergency management. The fair is scheduled to run August 25 – 30 and September 1 – 5.

#### **Training & Safety**

SRFR welcomed 16 new firefighters to the organization on July 18th. They are currently working through the SRFR pre-academy curriculum. The goals of pre-academy are to communicate the culture and expectations of SRFR and to help them come together as a team prior to the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy that starts during the middle of September. The pre-academy curriculum has been updated to support the increased number of new hires that have no experience in the fire service.

Additional training props are being built in various locations in the District to support incumbent firefighter training and to offer the necessary infrastructure to train new firefighters.

Probationary Firefighter Class 21-02 is at the halfway point through their probationary training. They were rotated to a different battalion at the six-month mark to increase their organizational awareness. The group is working hard and is currently meeting District training standards. Good work Probationary FF Class 21-02!

Snohomish County PUD is offering hands-on electricity awareness training to the District to increase firefighter safety. This includes the PUD Arch Trailer that has been seen at several local public events. Dates for the training are TBD.



HR and Health & Safety are continuously monitoring incidents of COVID within the workforce. Daily testing is ongoing for all front-line responders. The Force Protection Group continues to meet and make recommendations based on the needs of the county and regulatory agency guidance.

Health & Safety is working with the pre-academy instructor group to rollout an updated pre-training warmup protocol for all hands-on training to reduce sprain and strain injuries. The outcome will be evaluated for implementation District wide. In addition, a sport nutritionist was added to the pre-academy curriculum to educate on the importance of good hydration and diet during high demand training.

## PLANNING

### Community Relations

Public Education Updates:

School YTD: 2nd Grade Classes Visited: **41**

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

Adult & Senior Safety Classes YTD: **7**

- **July 13:** Disaster Preparedness Class: **9 Registrants**
- The next class is Aging in Place on August 10th

Social Media Snapshot: **July 6 – July 19**

- **57** Posts
- **122** New Followers/Accounts
- **166,599** Impressions/Engagement/Clicks

External Media:

- KING 5: 1 Child Drowns, 2 Others in Critical Condition
- Seattle Times: 12-Year-Old Dies, 13- and 15 Year-Old in Critical Condition
- KIRO 7: 1 teen dead, 2 in critical after being found unresponsive at Lake Stevens
- KIRO 7: 150 Free Life Jackets Distributed
- My Northwest: Three Kayakers Rescued from Snoqualmie River
- KING 5: [Snohomish County turning to kids for help after 7 reported drownings](#)
- Everett Herald: 2 Injured in a Small Plane Crash Near Canyon Park
- KOMO 4: Experimental aircraft crashes in the middle of Snohomish County road
- Washington State Drowning Prevention Network: Encourages Extra Attention to Water Safety

Internal Media:

- Summer '22 Newsletter
- 4th of July Fireworks Safety Message



- Fatal Davies Beach Drowning
- Lake Stevens: Suspicious Abandoned Garage Fire
- Life Jacket Giveaway
- Water Safety Camps
- Media Availability: Water Safety Camps, Water Rescue Training

The Communications Team is working on prepping and compiling information for the Fall '22 Newsletter and the 2021 Annual Report.

#### Events:

- Health & Wellness Festival (June 26th): The Public Education Team (Laana, Kaitlin & Pete) spent nine hours working a booth at North Cove Park. We provided bike helmet and life jacket safety information.
- Water Safety Camps (July 11th & 19th): We had the two camps at Lake Tye and Lundeen Park the past two weeks, and they were very successful. Parents and kids walked away happy and with more information about how to be safer around water. At each camp, kids rotated between four stations taught by Water Rescue Team members. These camps take months of planning and preparation. Each attendee walked away with a branded dry bag full of SRFR swag.
- Life Jacket Giveaway (July 16th): We partnered with Safe Kids Snohomish County, Seattle Children's, Lake Stevens Rowing Club, North Cascades Rowing Club, Lake Stevens PD, and the City of Lake Stevens, to give away 200 free life jackets to residents. The event was set to start at 1100 and there was a line formed at about 1015. All jackets were given away within 40 minutes.

The Communications Team is working on coordinating the following events:

- Aquafest: July 29th-31st
- National Night Out: August 2nd
  - Monroe, Willis Tucker, Mill Creek, Lake Stevens

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

- About Us Section and Recruitment/Employment Pages

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Human Resources**

Congratulations to Lieutenant Bernie Peretto and Firefighter Paramedic Carol Walradt on their retirements from SRFR effective June 30, 2022. The two retirees served the citizens of SRFR for a combined 57 years (Peretto 29 years and Walradt 28 years). Thank you for your 57 years of dedicated service!



Congratulations to Driver/Operator Pat Cook on his upcoming retirement July 31, 2022. There will be a ceremony celebrating D/O Cook's 22 years of service to the community on Monday August 1, 2022 at Station 81. The ceremony will begin at 0900.

The 16 new Recruit Firefighters started Monday, July 18, 2022. We are excited to have them on board and welcome them to the SRFR family!

Postings are up and SRFR is currently accepting applications for recruit firefighters and paramedics. Recruitment flyers for both positions have been distributed to various recruitment sources for distribution. Application process details can be found on the website and must go through the National Testing Network. Positions close on August 14, 2022 at 23:59 hrs. Kudos to the PIEO team for creating professional looking flyers for the positions!

SRFR continues to have five individuals out on accommodations. That number will continue through the month of August with the next possible return to work of September 1, 2022.

### **Administration**

The District received a reimbursement of wages through the Labor & Industries *Stay At Work* program. Great job to the administrative staff on their hard work to meet all requirements paving the way for the maximum allowable \$10,000 reimbursement.

### **Aquafest**

Happy Aquafest weekend! SRFR will be busy hosting the world-famous pancake breakfast at Station 81, staffing a first aid booth, parades, and lots more. Chief O'Brien will be partnering with Mayor Gailey to compete at the first annual Aquafest Pickleball Tournament. Thanks to the hard work our team has put into preparing

Stay safe and cool in the heatwave.

With appreciation,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief