



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

## **Chief's Report**

**November 9, 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**

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

#### **Promotions**

SRFR congratulates Jacob Winter, Joe Virnig, Nate Dillon, Matt James, Neil Merritt, and David Pick. Each will be promoted to Lieutenant effective January 1, 2024. Thanks to all the candidates and team members who helped in the promotion process.

#### **Residential Fire Response**

On October 29th, SRFR units assisted the Snohomish Fire Dist. 4 with an early morning fire off Broadway Ave. Units B71 and E71 were the first to arrive and found a medium, two-story house with an attic fire. Crews quickly stretched an attack line to extinguish the fire and then completed a primary search before transitioning to overhaul. Units B71, E71, L33, E77, B43, E41, E42, MSO71 and M43 all assisted on this incident.

Crews did a great job of confining this fire to the area of origin and limiting water damage during the fire attack. The house is estimated at \$1.6 million, but the damage estimate per the fire investigator was limited to \$50,000 dollars. Great job by all crews involved.

#### **Fatality Fire**

On October 29, SRFR crews responded to a travel trailer fire with a victim trapped inside. B71, E13, E72, MSO71, B31, M72, A73, E33 and L71 responded. E33 arrived and reported a well-involved fifth-wheel travel trailer on fire. E33 stretched an attack line and attempted to make entry and perform a rescue. B71 arrived and assumed command. L71 arrived and was assigned to assist with rescue. E33 quickly controlled the fire and was able to search the trailer and they found one deceased victim. Crews searched the remainder of the trailer and completed fire control. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



## **Emergency Medical Services**

### **Day MSO**

Congratulations to MSO Lisa Defenbaugh on her new position as Deputy Chief at South King Fire & Rescue. We wish Deputy Chief Defenbaugh the best in her new position which began on November 1st!

### **Online EMS Training**

The EMS Division is evaluating EMS Connect in the search of a better online learning platform. EMS Connect would take the place of Vector Solution's EMS training. This product has already been approved by the Snohomish County EMS Committee.

### **Oxygen Distribution**

MSO Aamold has standardized the way in which SRFR receives O2 delivery from Central Welding. O2 distribution is now the same in all three battalions. Thank you, MSO Aamold!

## **Training & Safety**

### **Live Fire Training**

The Training Division organized this year's live fire training for A & B Shifts on October 18-21 at Station 54 in Gold Bar. We conducted 33 fire scenarios in four days and had Mukilteo Fire and Fire District 5 participate in the training. Our lead instructors James Hammeren and Tyler Compton did an excellent job of devising a realistic scenario meant to mirror the features of a small two-story house with a fire in an upstairs bedroom. Our instructors reported great hustle and fireground tempo from crews and will be creating a document to highlight takeaways from the training. The Training Division thanks all the instructors and firefighters who made this training possible, as it couldn't be done without you!

### **BC Boot Camp**

The District sent three members to Florida to attend a Battalion Chief Boot Camp training program developed by Curt Isakson with County Fire Tactics. The members were engaged in an immersive 40-hour class that focused on Battalion Chief leadership, tactics, and successes and failures of real-world experiences had by Chief Isakson. The District will be sending six more members to this training next year.

### **StormStick**

The StormStick Decontamination System was used for the first time at the Live Fire training in Gold Bar. This new tool was extremely simple to use and Firefighters were able to operate and decontaminate themselves without any help. There will be training for the StormStick in the near future. We look forward to placing these on all front-line engines along with other decontamination supplies to assist our firefighters in removing contaminants from our turnout gear and ultimately reducing our carcinogen exposure.



## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Community Relations

#### **Public Education**

On October 12th, Engine Company 31, PIEO King and PIEO Mongillo visited Fryelands Elementary to teach 3 Kindergarten classes our Tools vs. Toys lesson. On October 31st, Engine Company 33 visited 2 Kindergarten classes at Maltby Elementary to teach the same lesson. Students learned what to do when they see matches and lighters, what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, and what firefighters look like in their gear.

We had a successful Fire Prevention Week with 3 Open Houses! Thank you to all who helped make these a success! At our large Open House in Monroe, we saw about 700 people! Attendees learned safety information, saw forcible entry and auto extrication demos, and were able to learn about the services we provide while interacting with our wonderful team members!

During the week of October 16th, the Community Relations team attended the Fire Prevention Institute in Chelan to collaborate with other Educators and PIOs in the state and to learn more about Community Risk Reduction.

On October 20th, PIEO King kicked off this year's school visits with 5 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes (125 students) at Woodside Elementary. Students learned about calling 911, escape planning, and sheltering in place.

Station 83's Crew, Program Specialist Larson, PIEO Mongillo, DC McConnell, PIEO King, and Chief O'Brien hosted a booth and touch a truck at the Lake Stevens Harvest Fest on October 31st. The team distributed candy and pedestrian safety information to the 700+ attendees who were at the event.

Adult & Senior Safety Classes YTD: 14

Upcoming Community Events:

- November 18th Lake Stevens Holiday Toy Drive

#### **Public Information**

Social Media Snapshot: **September 21 – November 1**

- 82 Posts
- 314 New Followers/Accounts
- 433,648 Impressions/Engagement/Clicks

External Media:



KIRO: Came to the scene.

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/north-sound-fire-kills-teenager-3-others-escape/KIEBNJYT4NDVZJWKZXPFCULMU/>

KING: Came to the scene.

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/14-year-old-girl-dies-rv-fire-mobile-home-park-near-monroe/281-3949e904-62a3-49db-930a-af0c3a4f099d>

FOX News:

National: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/washington-teen-dies-fire-getting-trapped-fully-engulfed-mobile-home-family-escapes-flames>

Seattle: <https://www.fox13seattle.com/news/teenager-dies-in-snohomish-mobile-home-park-fire-officials-investigating>

KOMO:

<https://komonews.com/news-brief-newsletter/teen-dies-after-being-trapped-in-snohomish-county-trailer-fire-death-blaze-three-rivers-mobile-home-park-family-home-tragedy-red-cross-chaplains-fire-7-foundation-help-loss-elliott-road-fifth-wheel-camper-cause-investigation-arson-sleeping#>

Everett Herald:

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/teen-killed-in-snohomish-mobile-home-fire/>

Internal Media:

- Fire Prevention Cooking Safety
- Lithium-ion Battery Safety
- Levy Info
- Fall Newsletter
- Disaster Preparedness
- BC Grace Promotion
- Walk & Roll to School Day
- Coffee with the Chief
- Open House Promo
- Q&A Levy
- Diwali Promo
- Open House
- Fire Explorers Program
- Woodside Elementary Visit
- Summer Safety Bingo Winners
- Three Rivers Fire
- Lake Stevens Harvest Fest
- Fall Prevention



- FPI Kaitlin Teaching
- Clock Change/Smoke Alarm

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Washington Fire Commissioners Conference**

During the week of October 23, Commissioners and Senior Staff attended the Washington Fire Commissioners Conference at the Tulalip Casino. Topics included legal issues, government initiatives, leadership, and human factors.

### **Entry-Level Firefighter Chief's Interviews**

During the week of October 30, staff completed Chief's interviews for Entry-Level Firefighter. At this time, three candidates have accepted offers. Pre-Academy training will begin January 2 and the Recruit Academy begins mid-February.

### **Chief's Interviews for Lieutenant**

During the week of November 6, staff completed Chief's interviews for Lieutenant. As noted above, Jacob Winter, Joe Virnig, Nate Dillon, Matt James, Neil Merritt, and David Pick have accepted promotions.

### **Proposition #1**

Current election results show SRFR Proposition #1, the Fire Levy Lid Lift passing with 59% approval. We wish to thank the great communities we serve for their strong support. Additionally, thank you to every SRFR member for your hard work, dedication, professionalism, and care for the people we serve.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief