



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

## **Chief's Report**

**December 28, 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

### **Thank You**

The final Chief's Report for 2023 is a review of some of the highlights of 2023. Thanks to all the SRFR team members for making 2023 a great year!

### **2023 Highlights**

#### **Incident Response**

SRFR incident responders continue to provide outstanding dedicated service to our community. We anticipate running approximately 15,259 alarms in 2023.

#### **Retirements**

SRFR honored the Retirements of District Administrative Coordinator Sonya Dudder, Driver/Operator Bill Ekse, Driver/Operator Darby Hepper, Lieutenant Greg Oakes, Battalion Chief Brian Hyatt, and Assistant Chief Steve Guptill.

#### **International Accreditation**

On February 28, 2023, District staff appeared before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and were awarded agency accreditation. SRFR is now an internationally accredited fire/rescue/EMS agency. We are the first to be accredited in Snohomish County and one of eight in Washington State.

#### **People**

There were 32 new firefighters hired in 2023 and 39 internal promotions.

#### **Operational Response Plan**

Following the transfer of Station 76 to South County Fire in January of 2023, the District's Operational Response Plan has been updated to meet the needs of the District.



#### Seven Board of Fire Commissioners

In February of 2023, voters approved Proposition One by 66.5%, which changed the statutory amount of the SRFR Board of Fire Commissioners from five to seven.

#### Organizational Changes

With the retirement of Assistant Chief Guptill, staff took the opportunity to evaluate the structure of the organization with the goal of effectiveness and efficiency. Through the analysis of the duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Chief position, we changed SRFR's staffing model to two Assistant Chiefs versus three. With this change, duties and responsibilities were evaluated and updated with the goal of effectiveness and efficiency. The District is now operating with three sections: Operations, Support Services, and Administrative Services.

#### Strategic Plan

The 2021-2026 Strategic plan is moving forward well with 51% total progress on the plan.

#### Replacement Fire Engines

The District has taken delivery of four replacement fire engines. We expect one more in the Spring.

#### Facility Updates

The District has hired a contractor to remodel Station 83 in Machias. Construction began this month.

Staff continue to work on plans to update the Vehicle Repair Shop, rebuild Station 81 in Lake Stevens, and relocate and rebuild Station 32 in Monroe.

#### Fire Levy Lid Lift

Voters approved a Fire Levy Lid Lift by 59% in the November election.

There are many more highlights that could be included in this report. We have an awesome team doing awesome things every day!

Here's to 2023 and looking forward to 2024.

Happy New Year!

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief