



Chief's Report

June 27, 2024

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

Significant Alarms

Commercial Fire Response

On June 9th, West Battalion units responded to a report of "fire in a building." Units B71, E72, L71, and E76 responded to a medium, one-story, strip mall with active fire in an end unit with extension into the soffits. The crews were able to quickly extinguish the fire and prevent spreading into other units or the attic. Primarily it was an exterior fire and quick actions by the responding crews prevented further spread. Great job by all crews!

Residential Fire Response and Medic Response

On June 8th, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and mutual aid crews were initially dispatched to a Medic response for difficulty breathing. While responding it was determined that the difficulty breathing was caused by smoke inhalation from a residential fire. Units M81, A81 and B81 arrived to find an RV on fire, with a nearby large barn as an exposure. It was balanced to a confirmed fire response. B81 established command, while M81 and A81 assumed care of the patient. Crews were able to contain the fire to the RV and prevent any damage to the nearby barn. Due to limited water supply, crews operated with water from T87. Great job taking care of the fire and patient care!

Fire Suppression / Special Operations

Wildland Deployment

On June 15th, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue sent a Strike Team Leader and a Tender, a crew of two, to a fire near Zillah, Washington. A Type 3 Incident Management Team is being deployed to run the fire, which is primarily on BLM land.



New Firefighter Hiring Process

Two Hiring Committee members, the Human Resources Director, Business Administrator, Assistant Chief of Operations, and the Fire Chief completed the Chief Interviews for recruit firefighter on the 25th of June. The group believed that this process was very successful, and fifteen (15) applicants were given conditional offers of employment. The open house that was conducted prior to moving on to the Chief Interviews was received well by many of the prospective candidates. A large thank you goes out to the Hiring Committee and Human Resources for their great work on this process. The conditional firefighters will begin their pre-academy on August 19th and will be assigned to the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy in September.

Deputy Chief Process

Six candidates were invited to the third round of Deputy Chief interviews scheduled for July 9th. One candidate has recently withdrawn from the process. Following the third round, the five candidates will be ranked and possibly moved to Chief Interviews.

Training & Safety

Snohomish County Truck Academy

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and South County Fire combined to host a Truck Academy to prepare our members to safely and efficiently operate as a member of a truck company. The Truck Academy was scheduled for five days, June 3-7. The topics covered were ventilation, search, ground ladders, forcible entry, and truck live fire operations. We appreciate all the hard work by SRFR instructors, and to future Battalion Chief Chris Stablein for all the groundwork in getting this started. Eight members from SCF and eight members from SRFR attended.

Health & Safety Grants

The Health & Safety Committee and the EMS Division recognized that there has been an increase in lower back injuries from awkward patient lifts on calls. The two groups identified the need for an aid or lifting strap to help minimize the chance of injury. A grant application has been submitted to assist us financially in purchasing the Sampson Lifting straps that are currently being trialed on M31 and A82. These straps would be placed on all first out apparatus.

The Health & Safety Division is also submitting a grant application for cabinet gear dryers for stations that do not have proper drying areas. The Health & Safety Committee has recognized our extracted PPE still contains carcinogens/contaminants and the forced air drying can aerosolize these particles. The gear drying cabinets will capture any residual carcinogens and contaminants from PPE while drying and exhaust them to the exterior of the building.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Community Relations

Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting

The June 12th Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon was attended by Commissioner Elmore, Commissioner Schaub, Deputy Chief Rasmussen, Deputy Chief McConnell, Deputy Fire Marshal LeDuc, and Program Specialist Larson. The topic for June was the State of the City with Mayor Brett Gailey.

Future Women in Fire Workshop

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) & South County Fire welcomed females from across Snohomish County to the first Snohomish County Future Women in Fire Workshop. The workshop was supported by multiple Snohomish County fire agencies. More than 30 participants spent the weekend climbing ladders, handling hoses, forcing doors, and learning the basics of emergency medical care. Seventy women applied for the workshop. Thank you to Jessica Hanna who served as the lead coordinator. SRFR Instructors and support included Shanell Rasmussen, Julia Thomas, Jordan Noto, Dr. Brooke Lundquist, Peter Mongillo, and Kaitlin King.

Capital Facilities Update

Station 83

The low voltage strike is over and SRFR is working on progress of low voltage needs. The new fire alarm panel has been installed and it has been submitted for inspection. The water damage in the front of the station has been addressed and is almost near completion. After having conversations with Axthelm, it was determined that the station will not be ready to return to until closer to September. The leadership team is meeting to discuss possibilities for future staffing of 83's first due area until completion date of the station.

Station 32 Property

The District continues to work through the due diligence period on this piece of land. A geo-technical and wetland study have been conducted. There were some possible wetlands found on the property. The District met with the city of Monroe for a pre-application meeting on the 25th of June. The wet land issue seemed to be answered but the city advised us of a possible easement/right of way, that could impose a limit to property usage. Further diligence and negotiations with the city will continue through this process.

Station 72

The Engine 72 crew is back in the station and weekly septic pumping has begun. The District will closely monitor for the next month to see if an adjustment to the pumping schedule needs to be made. Harmsen is completing the survey of the Station 72 property for the engineering of the sewer hookup. Once this work is completed and sent to the engineer, they will prepare the proposal to get the sewer line hookup complete.



Station 31 Shop Remodel

The District has awarded the project to GenCap Construction as the responsible low bidder. The contract is completed and in agreement with all parties. The contract has been reviewed by the District's legal counsel and project manager OAC. The contract and project cost proposal will go to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief

