



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

Chief's Report

October 10, 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

Residential Fire

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and mutual aid crews from the region were dispatched to a residential fire on September 22 for a report of the neighbor's house on fire. Engine 72 arrived to find a detached, two-story garage, fully involved, with an exposure (main house) that was igniting on the exterior. E72 pulled a 2 ¼" handline, extinguished the exposure and began flowing water into the garage. E77 completed a water supply and assisted with fire control. E13 arrived and pulled a RAM nozzle. The balance of the alarm arrived and was used to search the primary house, extinguish the fire, and provide replacements for personnel. The property was reported to have one occupant that had moved from the main house to the garage. There were numerous vehicles in the yard and the main house contents had been removed to the dumpster. On arrival, no one was found on the premises. The SCFMO Investigator and E72 remained on scene for investigation, fire watch, and extinguishing hotspots.

Water Rescue Response

On October 1, E71 was dispatched with multiple units to a service call for reports of a possible person needing help in the area of Bob Heirman Park, on the Snohomish River. While responding, information was updated from the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) requesting a boat for rescuing an unknown victim on shore.

E71 arrived at the parking lot of Bob Heirman Park with multiple SCSO deputies on scene with drones in the air searching. E72 arrived and made access to a utility road which allowed personnel to base in closer proximity to the river and began a search of the riverbank. SCSO updated crews that there was a positive location of the victim on the downstream riverbank. On shore, the crew began searching towards the known location and Boat 31 was launched. E71



located and made contact with the victim and evaluated the needs and best exit strategy out on foot. Boat 31 was cancelled.

E71's crew extracted the victim out of the forested area to the parking lot. The patient denied any injuries and refused additional EMS care. The patient remained at the park with his friend and was preparing for a ride home. SCSO and SRFR units cleared the incident and returned in service.

Busy Shift in the East Battalion

On October 1, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue East Battalion had a kitten rescue and residential structure fire. The crew started the day with a kitten stuck inside of the front quarter panel of a car, and they took the headlight and fender wall off to get the kitten.

Later, the crews had a residential fire with flames coming from the roof of a two-story house. E31 stretched an attack line to the second floor and made an attack through the ceiling. E32 laid their whole supply bed in a blind alley. Then they took an extra 200' off E31 to make a connection to tenders operating on Highway 203. E32 then gave tank water while waiting for tenders. E32 performed vertical and high horizontal ventilation to assist with fire control. Tender 31 arrived and was given a water supply group with T51, T71, and King County Tender 166 providing a water supply. Medic 51 was assigned to the medical group with MSO71. B43 was assigned as the Safety Officer. L33 assisted with fire control on the second floor while E42 and E73 relieved companies and performed overhaul.

The crews got a good stop on the fire, but there was heavy fire damage to the second floor and heavy water damage to the first floor. There were no injuries to citizens or firefighters. The homeowners commented on how hard our crews worked. Due to the location of this fire and the lack of water supply nearby, it was time and labor intensive. Great job by all the crews on this fire and the kitten rescue!

Residential Fire

On October 3 at 8:00 a.m., D-Shift was dispatched to a residential fire in the North Battalion. The call happened at shift change so E82 had five firefighters which was helpful. E82 arrived to find a small one-story home with a working fire in the garage. E82 was able to secure their own water supply and make a quick stop on the fire while A82 completed a primary search of the home.

Incoming companies assisted with a secondary search and overhaul. The fire was controlled, and the building was searched with no occupants found within 10 minutes of arriving on scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but it most likely involved lithium-ion batteries. The homeowner did not have functioning smoke detectors (the sound of the fire woke her up) but kudos to Battalion Chief DiMonda for having a crew swing by and install some working detectors for her later in the day.



Training

The Training Division and HR worked together to administer the Driver Operator Exam that concluded on October 1. We had 13 candidates complete the process that consisted of 5 sections: a written exam, an apparatus pumping evaluation, an oral board, a cone course, and a road course evaluation. Thank you to all involved for your commitment to this process. None of this could have taken place without our dedicated evaluation team. Thank you to Todd Epler, Tony Gleason, Steve Johnson, David Petersen, Jesse Abercrombie, Ryan Englund, Geoff Jacobs, Ryan Rozelle, Ross Rumann, Jeff Dickinson, Jake Eldridge, Darell Heike (Sno 4), and Jed Golder (South County)!

Health & Safety

The Pine Avenue Asbestos Investigation has come to a close. All members will be sent instructions on how to access this report. The three departments that participated in the Pine Avenue training included: SRFR, South County, and Sno 4. We had three members from our respective safety committees volunteer to join a joint investigation team. The team prepared a 151-page report addressing the potential asbestos exposure and also prepared a more consolidated checklist for future acquired structure training. Kris Olsen was the SRFR representative, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the health and safety of our members!

Have a safe one,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief