



Chief's Report

June 12, 2025

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

FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT PROCESS

On June 8, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) hosted a Fire Chief Candidate Open House, providing an opportunity for community members and SRFR staff to meet our Fire Chief candidates. This event was part of the selection process that also included a Fire Chief Assessment Center held on Monday, June 9. The assessment featured four finalists and five evaluation panels, facilitated by Chief Olson from GMP Consultants.

OPERATIONS

Significant Alarms

Motor Vehicle Collision

On May 23, SRFR's North Battalion responded to a multi-vehicle collision at State Route 9 and Market Place involving four vehicles and multiple patients. One person required advanced life support, and six others sustained minor injuries. The incident was upgraded to include extrication, and additional resources were dispatched to the scene. North Battalion crews assumed command and successfully extricated the patient within approximately six minutes before transporting them to Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett. One additional patient with minor injuries was also transported, while five others declined medical treatment. Outstanding effort by all involved in delivering a quick and effective response.

Swift Water Rescue

On May 24, crews from the East and West Battalions responded to a call involving a reported lost hiker at Lord Hill Park. Initial fire district resources were staged in coordination with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) while efforts were made to pinpoint the caller's location. The initial response was later canceled pending further information.



Approximately 45 minutes later, after SCSO and Search and Rescue (SAR) contacted the reporting party, the incident was reclassified as a swiftwater rescue. A canoe had capsized in the Snohomish River near a small island downstream from Three Rivers Mobile Home Park. A male, a female, and two dogs were involved. The male and both dogs reached the shore safely, but the female remained stranded on a log in the river with no safe access from Lord Hill Park.

Crews from the East Battalion responded with a boat team, and the West Battalion established command. The boat team successfully rescued the stranded individual and transported all parties to safety at Three Rivers Mobile Home Park. SCSO provided transportation home, and no injuries were reported. Excellent teamwork and coordination led to a safe and successful outcome.

Respiratory Distress

On May 28, West Battalion crews responded to a medical emergency for a woman in respiratory distress. When they arrived, they found the patient struggling to breathe through an open stoma and unable to speak. The patient's condition was rapidly worsening, and responders recognized the urgency as she showed signs of declining oxygen levels and potential cardiac arrest. Crews used atomized saline to help clear her airway and successfully placed a tracheostomy tube to restore her breathing. Her vital signs stabilized, and she was transported to Evergreen Medical Center in Kirkland, continuing to improve on the way. This was an outstanding effort by all involved. The quick thinking and fast action made a critical difference in the patient's outcome.

Residential Fire

On June 1, crews from the East, West, and North Battalions, along with mutual aid from Snohomish County Fire District #4 (SCFD4) and Woodinville Fire & Rescue, responded to a confirmed residential structure fire. Upon arrival, East Battalion crews found a two-story garage structure with two additional dwelling units, and the homeowner attempting to control the fire with a garden hose. Firefighters initiated an offensive attack and primary search, while additional crews supported fire suppression, search operations, and water supply. West Battalion personnel took on division and medical roles, and SCFD4 crews assisted with 360 assessments and utility control. North Battalion personnel provided support with secondary searches and overhaul.

Thanks to coordinated action, the fire was effectively brought under control, and all searches were clear. The homeowner sustained minor burns and smoke inhalation but did not require transport. The investigation was initiated by SRFR personnel and later led by the Snohomish County Fire Marshal.

SNO911 New Facility

SNO911 is now fully operating out of its new facility. The dispatch floor is up and running, with teams actively processing calls and dispatching first responders. The transition was seamless from the perspective of field responders, which is a testament to the thoughtful planning and behind-the-scenes coordination that made it possible. For a short time, staff were split between the North



and South Campuses to finalize critical move-in preparations. Last week, team members assigned to North Campus wrapped up their final shifts there, while day shift personnel stepped into the new headquarters for the first time.

This move marks the culmination of years of planning, collaboration, and hard work. We are incredibly proud of this milestone and grateful to everyone who made it happen! Check out the featured story from KING 5 News:

<https://www.king5.com/mobile/article/news/local/snohomish-county-new-911-call-center/281-65b83e96-18cf-4aac-a60b-86ec2b263b26>.

Women in Fire Conference

Eight fire agencies from across Snohomish County came together May 31 – June 1 for the 2nd Annual Women in Fire Workshop, hosted at the South County Fire Training Center. This year's workshop saw a notable increase, welcoming 44 participants, up from 30 last year.

Over two days, participants experienced hands-on firefighter training, which included hauling hoses, forcing doors, operating chainsaws, and lifting 150-pound rescue dummies, all while suited up in full firefighting gear. In addition to the physical challenges, attendees also took part in sessions focused on test preparation, mental health, and physical fitness. The goal of this annual workshop is to introduce the fire service to individuals who may not have previously considered it as a career path, creating space for mentorship, encouragement, and exploration.

Special thanks to Jessica Hanna, Shannell Rasmussen, and Jordan Noto for their work in organizing and instructing at the event. Your leadership and mentorship are helping shape the next generation of firefighters!

Special Operations

FIFA World Cup Preparations and Training

Members of the Snohomish County Hazardous Materials Team have completed key radiation detection training in preparation for supporting Seattle Fire during the upcoming FIFA World Cup events. Both the Primary and Secondary Screener Radiation Detection courses are required to assist with security and safety operations during the international tournament.

While the World Cup officially takes place in 2026, preliminary matches, often referred to as “mini” World Cup events, are scheduled to take place in Seattle this month. Two SRFR team members, Erik Emerson and Scott Rybar, have completed both required training courses and participated in a walkthrough on June 3 in preparation for assignment to these early matches. Six matches are scheduled for late June.

In addition to Erik and Scott, several other SRFR Hazmat Team members have completed the initial course. Once they have completed the second course, they will be positioned to support



World Cup operations when the tournament arrives in 2026. Thank you to all involved for stepping up and representing SRFR at this global event.

Operations Water Rescue Training

SRFR and SCFD4 are currently engaged in two weeks of Operations Level Water Rescue Training. This year's training focuses on static water rescue, with an emphasis on safety, policy review, scene setup, tactical objectives, and victim removal and transport. Crews rotate through three scenario-based stations designed to build skill, coordination, and confidence:

- **Wide Area Search:** Simulating a swimmer in distress, crews practice initiating command, gathering critical information, selecting search types, and preparing for victim transport.
- **Paddleboard Operations:** Firefighters train in hazard recognition, victim assistance techniques, and the use of paddleboards to support rescue swimmers.
- **Targeted Search with PFD:** This station builds awareness of operations-level capabilities when assisting with search efforts, marking locations for rescue swimmers, and supporting victim removal from the water.

This joint training effort is an example of how collaboration leads to more capable, connected, and prepared teams.

Training

Acting Driver/Operator

Kristopher Christensen and Benjamin Bloomquist have successfully met all requirements and are now approved to serve as acting driver/operators. Congratulations to both, and thank you for your dedication and hard work in achieving this milestone!

SUPPORT SERVICES

Logistics

Stations 32 and 81

On June 4, SRFR staff met with Jakeh Roberts, the Public Works Director for the City of Monroe, to discuss the city's plans for Oak Street and explore opportunities for collaboration on road improvements and our Station 32 project. Additionally, BN Builders is expected to present a Phase 1C proposal this week for the new Station 32 and Station 81 projects. This proposal will guide us through the design phase of both projects.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief