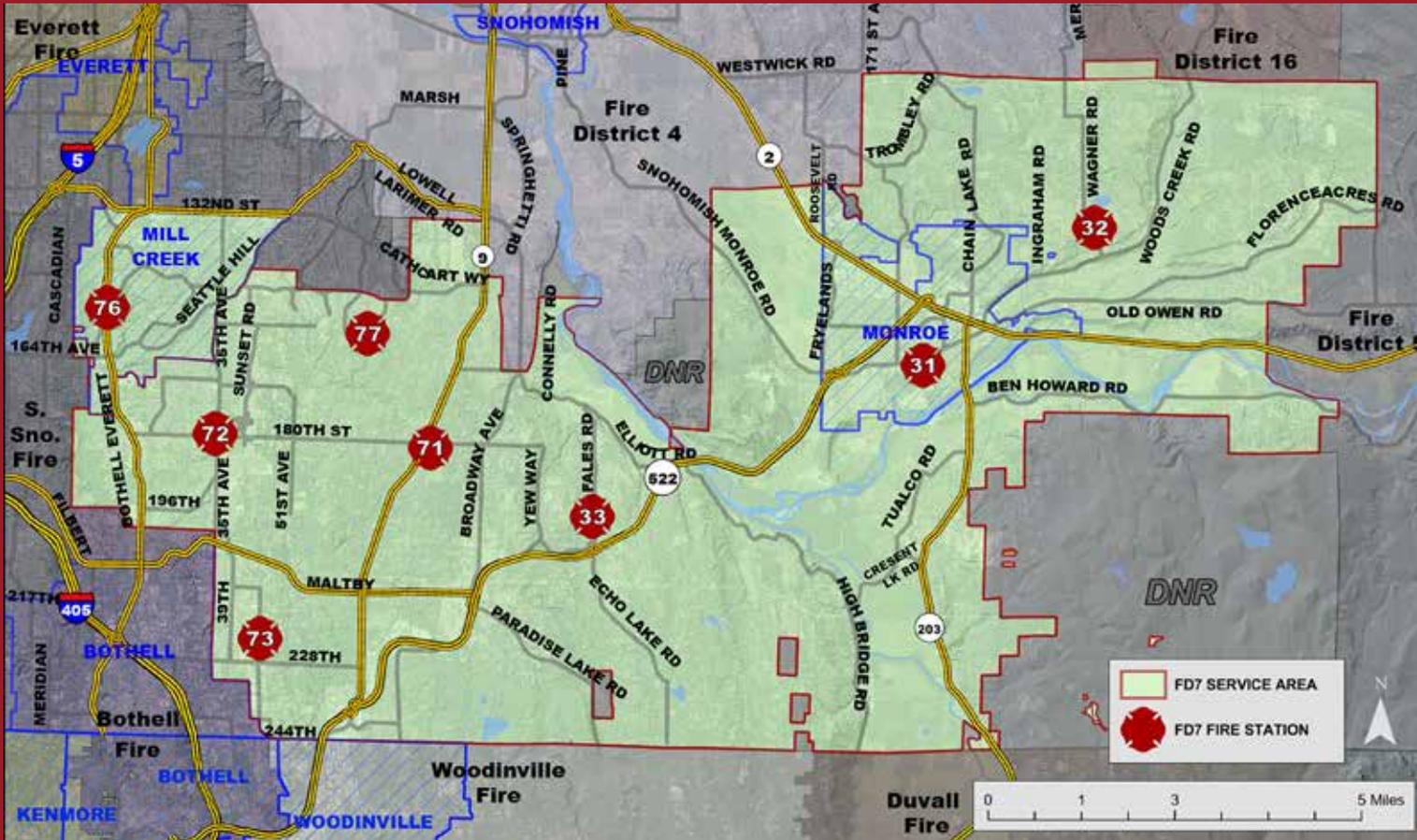


# Snohomish County Fire District 7

## 2018 Annual Report





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## Social Media

-  @SnoCountyFire7
-  @SnoCountyFire7
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# Message from Commissioners

Snohomish County Fire District 7's Board of Fire Commissioners are elected by the voters to represent the public's interests for fire and Emergency Medical Service. Due to the merger between Monroe Fire District 3 and Fire District 7 in 2016, the board consists of six commissioners. Through natural attrition and the election process, the number of fire commissioners will be returned to the statutory limit of five.

The Board is responsible for governing the operations of the Fire District by developing budgets and establishing policy for the district. Further, they guide strategic planning to reach the goals and mission of the Fire District. The Fire Chief reports to the Board and then carries out the daily functions of the Fire District.

"The focus of the Board of Commissioners is to ensure we are providing the highest level of service to our citizens," says Roy Waugh, Board Chairman for Snohomish County Fire District 7. "We work hard at being fiscally responsible with the tax dollars we are given while working diligently towards service improvements, quality assurance, and firefighter safety and training."



Chairman  
Roy Waugh - Position: 5  
rwaugh@snofire7.org



Vice Chairman  
Bill Snyder - Position: 2  
bsnyder@snofire7.org



Randy Fay - Position: 3  
rfay@snofire7.org



Leslie Jo Wells - Position: 4  
lwells@snofire7.org



Jeff Schaub - Position: 2  
jschaub@snofire7.org



Randy Woolery - Position: 5  
rwoolery@snofire7.org



# Message From The Fire Chief

Earning Trust Through Action

Snohomish County Fire District 7 is pleased to provide its 2018 Annual Report. Fire District 7 provides fire and life safety services to over 116,000 people over 98.5 square miles in central and east Snohomish County, including the communities of Clearview, Maltby, and Monroe. Fire District 7 also serves Mill Creek through a contract for emergency services.

In 2018 our emergency personnel responded to more than 11,000 emergency calls. Your support means that Fire District 7 has built one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Snohomish County with highly-trained personnel, facilities, apparatus, and rescue programs.

Fire District 7 is committed to providing the best service possible in a financially-responsible manner. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has earned more than 35 years of clean audits by the state. Our strong financial practices mean that Fire District 7 funds daily operations and capital needs (such as apparatus and facilities) through its regular levies for fire and emergency medical services. Many fire districts require voter-approved bonds, which cost taxpayers more in interest payments. The last bond requested and approved by voters in Fire District 7 was in 1978.

We constantly evaluate how we can serve you better when it comes to service levels and costs. Our Standards of Cover report evaluates our emergency response today and into the future with projected growth and needed capital expenses. We also advocate for road networking before new developments occur, work with neighboring agencies to eliminate duplication of services and provide mutual aid to reach people in need faster.

Looking ahead, there are two significant issues for Fire District 7 in 2019. One is asking voters to approve a fire levy lid lift to continue a sustainable funding source for emergency services. This measure will be on the ballot sometime in 2019 so we can maintain service levels even in the case of an economic downturn. We pride ourselves on being able to fund all our community's emergency service needs from our two operational levies for fire and EMS. This amount can never exceed \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is an amount that voters have approved in multiple previous elections. Again, we do not require voter-approved bonds for capital needs, which cost taxpayers more.

The second issue is a potential merger with Lake Stevens Fire. Many fire districts are merging or partnering with neighboring agencies to improve service and reduce costs. Lake Stevens Fire has the same financial practices that we do with the end result of reducing impacts to taxpayers. Finalizing this partnership would benefit both our communities with better deployment of personnel and reducing costs long-term through administrative and training efficiencies. The merger would take place in 2020 if voters approve it in 2019.

In closing, I want to simply say thank you. Those of us who work for you at Fire District 7 are honored to serve and display pride in our profession on a daily basis. Our employees and emergency personnel are leaders in your community who strive to earn your trust through our actions.

Thank you,  
Fire Chief Gary Meek





# About Fire District 7

Build community trust and resilience through education and community engagement.  
Deliver excellent service while focusing on innovation and continuous improvement.

# Our Vision, Goals & Values

## VISION:

- Fire District 7 – A trusted leader serving the community with a commitment to innovation and improvement.

## GOALS:

- Plan for technology improvements and maintenance to meet the operational needs of the district.
- Develop and expand on existing partnerships to build trust and explore collaborative opportunities.
- Deliver excellent service while focusing on innovation and improvement.
- Exercise sound financial judgment and plan for fiscal sustainability.
- Develop and manage infrastructure to support operations and innovations now and for the future.
- Hire, develop, take care of and promote the best people.
- Build community trust and resilience through education and engagement.

## VALUES:

- We seek feedback and learn and improve from experience.
- We are willing to take risks and make changes in order to improve service.
- We are committed to doing the work and continuously improving the way work gets done.



Square miles  
protected

**98.5**

Population  
served

**116,000**

Number of  
Personnel

**194**

Number of  
Stations

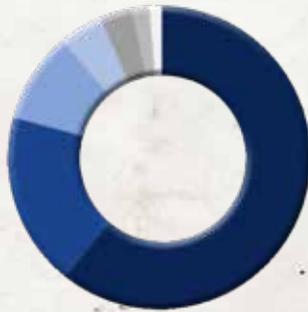
**8**



# Finance

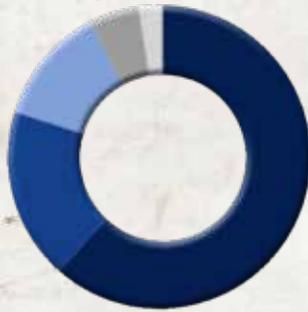
Exercise sound financial judgment and plan for fiscal sustainability.

# Finance Operations



## Revenue

Fire Levy	\$23,655,336.41
EMS Levy	\$7,091,825.54
Mill Creek Interlocal	\$3,720,909.00
Transport Fees	\$1,795,672.69
State Mobilization	\$1,353,624.34
Other Services	\$695,748.79
Other Misc.	\$528,797.57



## Expense

Personnel	\$28,246,227.38
Capital *	\$8,210,577.21
M&O	\$5,651,833.29
Interfund	\$2,399,872.00
Debt	\$1,138,923.63

\* Paid outside of general fund

## General Fund

Fire District 7 is committed to providing the best service possible in a financially responsible manner. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has earned more than 35 years of clean audits by the state. Careful financial planning has built the capital reserve fund, allowing Fire District 7 to finance capital expenses including apparatus, equipment and facilities, rather than seeking voter approval to incur long-term bond debt. Our financial philosophy means that we pay upfront for apparatus and station renovations as opposed to requiring voter-approved bonds to meet these needs, which is an additional property tax. The last bond Fire District 7 requested was in 1978.

## 2018 Levy Rates

Fire District 7 operates with funding from property tax revenues generated through two levies:

**Fire \$1.50**  
**EMS \$0.45**

## Grant

Fire District 7 received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will be used to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's) for firefighters.

**\$758,000**



# Agency Overview

Develop and manage infrastructure to support operations and innovations now and for the future.

We are committed to doing the work, and continuously improving the way work gets done.

# Services Provided

Snohomish County Fire District 7 provides fire and life safety services to over 116,000 people across 98.5 square miles in central and east Snohomish County, including the communities of Clearview, Maltby, Mill Creek and Monroe. In 2018 our emergency personnel responded to over 11,000 emergency calls. Through taxpayer support, Fire District 7 has built an advanced emergency response system in Snohomish County with highly cross-trained personnel, facilities, apparatus, and rescue programs. We appreciate your support and are grateful for the opportunity to serve your community.

Here are some of the key services we provide:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Suppression</b><br/>Structural<br/>Wildland</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Training</b></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency Medical Services</b><br/>Basic Life Support<br/>Advanced Life Support</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Risk Reduction</b></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special Operations</b><br/>Hazardous Materials<br/>Water Rescue<br/>Technical Rescue</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Marshal Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Business inspections</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Engagement</b></li> </ul> |

**194**  
Number of Personnel

**6**  
Commissioners

**9**  
Administration

**135**  
Career Firefighters

**26**  
Part-time Firefighters

**12**  
Administrative Support

**6**  
Mechanics

# Significant Events

## **1st Training Recruit Academy**

10 Snohomish County fire departments partnered together to begin the first regional recruit academy.



5/01/18

## **13th Ave SE Fire**

Fire District 7's quick fire attack saved additional homes from being destroyed by the quickly spreading fire.



5/29/18

## **4th of July Incident**

Fire District 7 responded to three structure fires on the 4th of July. No injuries were reported at any of the fires.



7/19/18

3/15/18



## **EMS Survey top 25**

Results from a 3rd party customer service survey nationally ranked Fire District 7 in the top 25 over all like sized agencies for patient experience, with a customer satisfaction score of 95.87%.

5/09/18



## **Dr. Cooper Cardiac Award**

Fire District 7 received the Dr. Cooper Cardiac Award for our progressive approach in treating patients in cardiac arrest by utilizing new innovative methods, such as double sequential defibrillation and the use of the Lucas device during CPR.

7/04/18



## **Water Rescue Team Partners with the City of Monroe**

Fire District 7 partnered with the City of Monroe to install a buoy line at the Lake Tye beach that outlined a designated swimming area for safety purposes.

**199th Ave SE Fire**

Firefighters saved a home from a fully involved shop fire. Before fighters contained the flames, the fire had spread to the dry trees and large wood pile moving toward the house. One person sustained minor burn injuries and was transported.



8/11/18

**215th Place SE Fire**

Firefighters contained a fast moving RV fire that spread to the attic of the nearby home. With quick fire attack and ventilation, firefighters were able to extinguish the fire in the attic before it spread the rest of the home, saving the majority of the residence and personal belongings.



11/13/18

8/10/18



**Tualco Loop Tractor Fire**

Firefighters battled the fully engulfed barn fire that was only 20 feet away from the residence. The barn housed multiple tractors for the antique tractor show. They were able to keep the fire from spreading to the home and prevented any injuries.

In District Incident Dispatches

**9,036**

Out of District Dispatches

**2,136**

Total Incident Dispatches

**11,172**



**In District Incident Dispatches**

- 6,552** Rescue & EMS Incidents
- 891** Good Intent Call
- 569** Service Call
- 388** False Alarm & False Call
- 270** Other
- 192** Fire
- 174** Hazardous Condition

\*NFIRS: National Fire Incident Reporting System



# Every Second Counts

We acknowledge that public trust matters – and strive to be worthy of it.  
We are willing to take risks and make changes in order to improve service.  
We are committed to our work and continuously improving the way work gets done.

# Anatomy of a 911 Call

2018 FIRE	2018 EMS
<b>Turnout Time in Minutes</b>	
<b>1:47</b>	<b>1:17</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>Average</b>
2:39 or Less 90% of the time	2:03 or Less 90% of the time
<b>Objective:</b> 1:30 or Less	<b>Objective:</b> 1:30 or Less
<b>Achieved:</b> 43% of the time	<b>Achieved:</b> 70% of the time
<b>Response Time in Minutes</b>	
<b>6:22</b>	<b>5:27</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>Average</b>
10:01 or Less 90% of the time	8:39 or Less 90% of the time
<b>Objective:</b> 7:30 or Less	<b>Objective:</b> 7:30 or Less
<b>Achieved:</b> 72% of the time	<b>Achieved:</b> 83% of the time
<b>Full Alarm Assignment in Minutes</b>	
<b>11:27</b>	<b>5:44</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>Average</b>
14:29 or Less 90% of the time	9:10 or Less 90% of the time
<b>Objective:</b> 11:30 or Less	<b>Objective:</b> 10:00 or Less
<b>Achieved:</b> 57% of the time	<b>Achieved:</b> 90% of the time

**Turnout + Travel = Response Time**



## CALL

Someone calls 911

## DISPATCH

The 911 center processes call and dispatches units

## TURNOUT

Time from when unit is dispatched to when the crew is dressed in gear and in the vehicle, ready to go

## TRAVEL

Time from when the unit starts moving to when it arrives on scene



# Fire Suppression

Fire District 7's fire suppression has two primary areas of focus that require very different equipment, training and strategy.

Structure (building) fires require the expertise of firefighters that have knowledge and equipment that allows the flow of large volumes of water, search and rescue of occupants trapped inside a building, and the removal of harmful gasses and smoke.

Wildland (brush) Fires require a completely different set of skills, although brush fires will often result in structure fires that are in its path of destruction. Wildland fires depend on a fast attack consisting of smaller trucks that have all terrain capability and firefighters that wear a completely different set of protective gear. You won't often see your firefighters wearing the heavy clothing and breathing apparatus. You will see them in much lighter gear with small hand tools and small hose lines along with bulldozers and aerial water drops when needed.

At the direction of the Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association, the development of a local academy was necessary to meet the county's growing hiring needs that have outpaced available enrollment at the Washington State Training Academy in North Bend. The intensive 14-week academy includes training in Snohomish County protocols not available at the state academy, utilizing local expertise to train, and enables firefighters to work together more effectively on mutual aid incidents. An accomplishment that happened in 2018 was the development of the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy.

Natural Disaster  
Deployments

**31**

Natural Disaster  
Mobilization Hours

**4,254**

Natural Disaster  
Resources fo  
Reimbursement

**\$610,015**



# EMS Division

Snohomish County Fire District 7 EMS serves a wide variety of medical needs from the most critical, such as cardiac arrest or severe trauma, to the most basic such as a sprained ankle. Our personnel are trained to handle it all. All of our firefighters are cross-trained as EMTs or paramedics. Fire District 7 has developed a process to send Paramedics through the rigorous Harborview Medical Center training.

In 2018 70% of our patients went to the hospital in a Fire Department Ambulance while 30% of the time an ambulance ride was not needed. Our staff work with patients to provide a high quality experience. This is reflected in our consistently high ratings from a nationally recognized third party agency that ranked our medics at 95.86% for patient satisfaction in comparison to like sized agencies in 2018. That is 2% higher than the national average.

## CRP

Fire District 7 implemented a Community Resource Paramedic (CRP) program 2015. The CRP is responsible for assisting patients who have needs that are different from what traditional Emergency Services provide. The CRP may assist a patient who is at risk for falls or needs help finding a primary care physician so that they do not need to rely on Emergency Services to solve their chronic medical condition. This service saves tax payers dollars.

## Opioid Epidemic

In 2018 Fire District 7 partnered with the Snohomish County Multi Agency Coordination Group to assist with addressing Snohomish County's opioid crisis. The goal of this group is to facilitate better coordination and communication across multiple jurisdictions, government agencies, and service providers. This coordinated effort is working to reduce the number of opioid deaths that occur in our community along with working to prevent continued addiction to opiates.

EMS Patient Satisfaction

**95.86%**

Number of Patient Contacts

**6,514**

CPR Survival Rate

**40% CPR**

Number of Transports

**4,535**

Awards

**2**



# Special Operations

Water Rescue  
Certifications

40

Technical Rescue  
Certifications

19

Hazmat  
Certifications

14

## HAZMAT

Seven jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response team to better serve our respective communities and save taxpayer dollars. This team requires specialized resources and training to respond to these types of emergencies. Their technical skills and equipment provide them with the ability to detect and/or identify chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials. The team utilizes various levels of chemical protective clothing and equipment needed to enter dangerous atmospheres.

## Tech Rescue

Nine jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional technical rescue response team to better serve our communities and save taxpayer dollars. Having a regional team combines these rescue resources and reduces duplication to provide a seamless and efficient emergency response. These highly trained professionals are ready to assist with tasks associated with the following rescue disciplines: trench, high and low angle rope rescue, urban search & rescue (USAR), and confined space.

## Water Rescue

Fire District 7 has three major rivers within its jurisdiction and countless lakes where we respond to water related rescue calls; such as missing person(s) in swim areas, capsized boats, vehicles into the water, flooding and other water related incidents. The Water Rescue Team is highly trained in swift water rescue, boat operations, ice rescue, rescue swimming for free diving to 40 feet deep and long distance swims.



# Training Division

Fire District 7's Training Division is committed to preparing our personnel to deliver excellent customer service to the citizens of our communities while adhering to mandated training requirements. We do this by proactively responding to changes, solving problems, collaborating on issues, assessing the needs of our community and personnel, and developing viable solutions. The training division accomplishes this by incorporating the best instructional and training methods, as well as continuously evaluating the capabilities of our personnel.

We collaborated with neighboring agencies to conduct a Part-Time Academy, each of the recruits receiving 240 hours of training including national certifications in HazMat Awareness and Operations, Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2.

## Training Topics

- Fire Cause/Preserving Evidence
- Firefighting Strategies and Tactics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Search and Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication/Scene Lighting
- Driver/Operator Pumping
- Firefighter Safety
- Incident Command/Blue Card
- Hazardous Materials
- Rope Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Hose Evolutions
- Chainsaw/Circular Saw
- Policy/Procedure
- Forcible Entry
- Tactical Ventilation
- Water Supply
- Building Construction
- Fire Behavior
- Fire Protection Systems
- Officer Development
- Vehicle Extrication
- Ground Ladders
- Computer Programs
- Live fire

## Training Hours

# 19,504

**6 New Career  
Firefighters Total  
Training Hours  
Prior to Serving  
Communities**

# 4,800

**8 Career Firefighters  
Total Training Hours for  
'Officer Development  
Academy'**

# 320 hour



# Community Risk Reduction

Number of  
Burn Permits Issued

**339**

Number of  
Fire/Life Safety  
Annual Inspections

\*July 1 - Dec 31

**275**

Dollar worth of  
structures saved

**\$32,290,466**

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division is a system and process in which programs, actions, and services within our community are utilized to prevent injuries, loss of life, loss of property, and damage to the environment. CRR activities identify and prioritize risks and apply resources in a coordinated manner to minimize the probability and severity of occurrence of fire, natural disasters, and man-made disasters.

Historically, these activities have been provided through the Fire Prevention Division. However, this term did not comprehensively encompass the value of the division's work in injury prevention, prevention of hazardous materials incidents, and other activities.

## The benefits of a safer community are achieved through:

- Risk Assessment

- Through incident analysis we can make informed decisions about resource deployment, impacts on the community, and employ preventative measures.

- Employ Strategies for Mitigating Risks

- Decisions are made on how to best implement ways to prevent these risks from recurring, or reducing the impacts of the risks.
  - Education
  - Emergency Response
  - Engineering
  - Enforcement
  - Economic Incentive

- Measurement and Improvement

- Establishing a program to measure the impacts of community risk reduction activities upon the very risks intended to be improved.



# Public Education/Community Engagement

One of Fire District 7's goals is to build community trust and resilience through education and engagement. We offer a variety community education programs and are involved in community safety awareness fairs and events. Fire District 7 continues the commitment to provide fire and life safety education to help create safer communities. We partner with our local schools, from elementary to high school, to teach a variety of age appropriate lessons to learn about fire and life safety. We follow curriculum designed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Additionally, Fire District 7 collaborates with civic groups and other organizations to use education to raise awareness about potential risks and the impact on your family.

## Community Events Highlighted:

- Fire District 7 hosted 2 Open Houses to connect with the community and teach about emergency preparedness, as well as the services we provide. Thank you to the 1,000+ citizens who attend this year's events.
- The Mill Creek Festival is a 2 day fun filled event that promotes community engagement.
- Monroe Fair Days Parade is a wonderful event that celebrates the community!

## In Our Schools

### Elementary Programs

- Kindergarten: Tools vs. Toys
- 2nd Grade: Know 2 Ways Out!
- 4th Grade: Home Hazards

### High School Programs

- Impact Teen Diver

Community Events and Community Engagement Activities

**41**

Number of Classrooms Visited

**117**

Citizens CPR Only Certified

**157**

Citizens CPR/ First Aid Certified

**183**

Open Houses With Over 1,000 People Participating.

**2**



# 2019 Calendar of Events

## YMCA Healthy Kids Day

*April 27, 2019* at the Monroe YMCA

## EMS Week Open House

*May 19, 2019* at Fire Station 71  
8010 180th St SE, Snohomish, WA 98296

## Kids Water Safety Camp

*July 2, 2019* at Lake Tye Park  
14964 Fryelands Blvd, Monroe, WA 98272

## Mill Creek Festival

*July 13-14, 2019* in Mill Creek

## Monroe Fair Days Parade

*August 24, 2019* in downtown Monroe

## Fire Prevention Week Open House

*October 12, 2019* at Fire Station 31  
163 Village Court, Monroe, WA 98272



Headquarters  
163 Village Court  
Monroe, WA 98272  
360-794-7666



[snofire7.org](http://snofire7.org)



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# Thank you