

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL
FIRE & RESCUE





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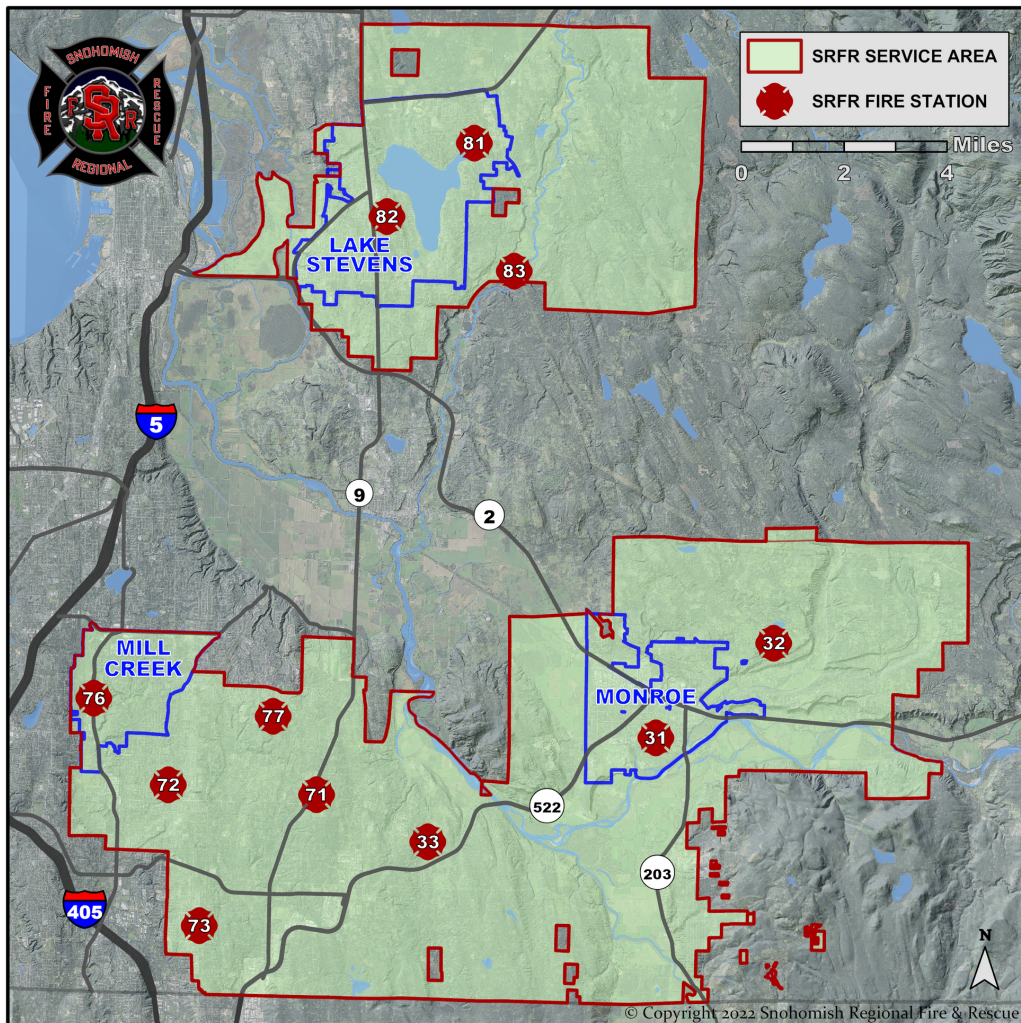
@SnoRegionalFire



@SnoRegionalFire



@SnoRegionalFire



Square Miles
Protected:

140



Population
Served:

176,367



Number of
Personnel:

252



Number of
Fire Stations:

11

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's Board of Fire Commissioners is elected by the voters to represent the public's interest for fire and emergency medical services. Our agency is committed to providing the best service possible in a fiscally responsible manner. The district diligently operates under a balanced budget and has earned another clean audit by the state. All the board's meetings are open to the public and accessible to our community through an online forum. We also provide information through our website, community newsletters, and social media platforms. Our fire agency is an independent junior taxing district. We do not receive tax dollars from state or county governments. Our daily operations are primarily funded through two local voter approved levies paid through property taxes.

With voter approval, these levy rates are capped at a total of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (\$1.50 for fire and \$0.50 for EMS). When a levy rate falls, we ask our community to return it to the original amount. These "lid lifts" help us keep up with higher call volumes and increasing costs to provide service.

The support of voters has allowed us to build one of the best emergency response agencies in the state. The Board of Commissioners continues to ensure that we provide the highest level of service for our citizens. We will continue to work toward service improvements, quality assurance, and firefighter safety and training. We appreciate any feedback from our citizens and thank you for your support. We would also like to thank all our first responders and staff for their dedication and commitment on behalf of our citizens.



Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The people of our community inspire me. I see examples of dedicated service every day in our schools, hospitals, police department, food banks, and the list goes on. One of the core values of our agency is teamwork. We at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue are honored to be a part of the community service team and strive to provide you with the best level of care possible. Through diligent training, responsible hiring, and sound financial practices, we work each day to be our very best. A part of being our best involves ensuring that we operate in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. To achieve this, in 2022, our agency continued to work through an internationally recognized accreditation process that challenges us to always improve. This process was established by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), and through it, we evaluate our service delivery and find ways to get better at what we do. It has been demonstrated that the communities who are served by accredited agencies have reduced property loss from fire, improved insurance protection class ratings, lower homeowners' insurance premiums, and lower civilian injuries and deaths from fire. We have been working toward this goal for many years, and in September, we received the notice that we have been recommended for accreditation. We will go before the CFAI Commission in February of 2023, which will serve as the next step towards more effectively fulfilling our mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people.

As a region, we have seen an increased threat from wildland fires. The Bolt Creek Fire put many local lives and property in jeopardy and resulted in over 14,000 acres burned. Wildland fires are increasing in our urban areas, and we are prepared for this emerging threat. We have trained our crews to respond to wildland fires, and we have added the equipment and personnel necessary to help protect our communities.

Through everything we do, we are working to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We operate under a balanced budget and take our fiscal responsibility very seriously. We also strive to be transparent. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out. Our team is here to serve you and your family. I cannot overstate how honored and appreciative I am to be a part of Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and the amazing community we serve.

Take care and stay safe, Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien



Fire Chief

Kevin K. O'Brien
Kevin.OBrien@SRFR.org





AGENCY OVERVIEW

SERVICES PROVIDED

We are Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR), serving 176,367 residents in Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. We also provided emergency services to the city of Mill Creek on a contract basis through 2022. SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 calls per year with highly-trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs.

SRFR is known for providing the highest quality fire and emergency medical services (EMS). We also provide fire prevention and life safety programs to prevent emergencies and accidents before they happen. We conduct inspections of businesses and all new construction to make sure they comply with the latest fire safety codes. We're in our local schools, offer safety classes for seniors, and teach disaster preparedness, home fire safety, and fire extinguisher use. We also host two water safety camps for children in the summer and attend various community events throughout the year. Our philosophy is to serve people, save lives, protect property, safeguard the environment, and continuously improve to meet the needs of our community as it grows.

SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 calls per year with highly-trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs.

PERSONNEL BREAKDOWN



Career
Firefighters:

197



Prevention
Staff:

8



Logistics
Staff:

4



Executive
Staff:

11



Administrative
Staff:

12



Mechanics:

7



Commissioners:

7



Chaplains:

6

Numbers pulled December 2022



**WE ARE SNOHOMISH REGIONAL
FIRE & RESCUE**



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.

VALUES

RESPECT

- We are made stronger by the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our team members through their ideas, beliefs, and perspectives.
- We believe in treating all people, property, and the environment with dignity, compassion, and respect.
- We continually strive to earn the respect of our community and our co-workers through open communication and transparency.
- We choose to promote a collaborative and positive culture that respects and values the qualities and traits of all people.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We exercise sound financial judgement and plan for fiscal sustainability.
- We seek feedback to learn and improve from experiences, always focusing on continuous improvement.
- We are responsible for our own attitudes and actions.
- We are open, transparent, and responsible to the public we serve.

INTEGRITY

- We honor public trust.
- We adhere to strong moral and ethical principles.
- We do what is right for the right reasons.
- We serve with sincerity and goodness.

TEAMWORK

- We are an engaged group of people with complementary skills who are committed through collaboration.
- We work with internal and external stakeholders driving toward a common purpose.
- We hold each other mutually accountable.

SERVICE

- We are here for our community.
- We are here to support each other.
- We strive to provide exceptional service through our actions.
- Service is a commitment to mastery of skills, professionalism, and compassion.





ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

On September 22, 2022, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue received a recommendation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) Peer Assessor Team to become the newest internationally accredited civilian fire agency in Washington State. Currently, there are only five civilian agencies in Washington State that are internationally accredited.

Back in 2020, SRFR began the process of becoming an accredited agency, and for the past few years, we have been working towards the objectives and goals to accomplish such an achievement. An accredited fire district focuses on community outcomes rather than just agency outputs. It has been proven that the communities served by accredited agencies have lower civilian injuries and deaths from fire, reduced fire property loss, improved WSRB protection class ratings, and lower insurance premiums paid by property owners.

An accredited fire district focuses on community outcomes rather than just agency outputs.

The accreditation process does not stop once an agency is approved. It requires agencies to focus on continuous improvement in all areas of the organization including transparency, data-driven decision making, and procedure and policy development.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien told the department, "Having industry experts from around the country tell us that we are doing well is significant. At this point in the process, the Peer Team Leader becomes an advocate for SRFR's approval for accredited status."

The next step in this process will be in February of 2023 when SRFR will go before the CFAI Commission with the recommendation at the Center for Public Safety Excellence Conference. We are excited to share this with our communities and look forward to the future.





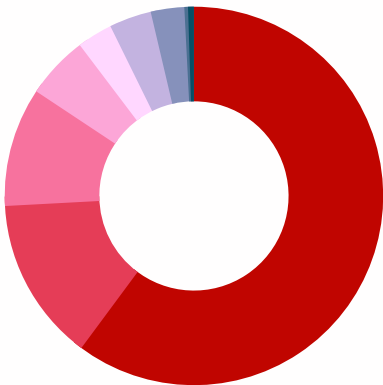
FINANCE

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue 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 39 years of clean audits by the state.

REVENUE

Fire Levy	\$48,568,275
EMS Levy	\$11,310,705
GEMT**	\$8,211,097
Mill Creek Contract	\$4,336,226
Charges for Services	\$2,447,402
Transports	\$2,910,903
Other	\$2,312,151
Grants	\$252,283
State Mobilization	\$403,338
Total	\$80,752,380

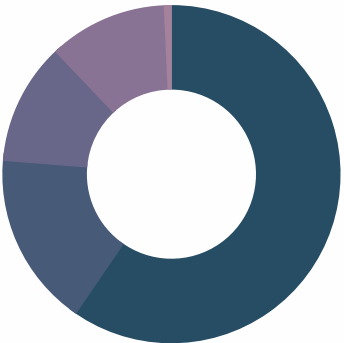


39 YEARS

of clean audits
from the
Washington State
Auditor's Office

**Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT)

EXPENSES



Personnel	\$48,873,246
Interfund	\$13,721,709
Maintenance & Operations	\$9,335,316
Capital****	\$3,001,172
Debt	\$594,893

Total **\$75,526,336**

****Paid outside of general fund



EMERGENCY & PREVENTION SERVICES

RESPONSE TIME STANDARDS

When lives and property are at risk, every second counts. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has adopted standards for emergency response based on a current community risk assessment and historical performance as recommended by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Response time is the sum of alarm handling, turnout, and travel to the incident. Travel times vary based on roads, traffic, and time of day. Each category is calculated on its own and based on the 90th percentile.

ANATOMY OF A 911 CALL



CALL
Someone calls 911.



ALARM HANDLING
The 911 center processes call and dispatches units.



TURNOUT
The time from when unit is dispatched to when the crew is dressed in gear and in the vehicle responding.







TRAVEL
The time from when the unit starts moving to when it arrives on scene.





ALARM HANDLING +
TURNOUT + TRAVEL =
RESPONSE TIME

Urban: Greater than 2,500 people / square mile
Rural: 2,500 or less people/square mile





FIRE

	Alarm Handling	Turnout Time	Travel Time	Response Time
				
Urban	Baseline: 1:10 Benchmark: 1:03	Baseline: 2:27 Benchmark: 2:12	Baseline: 7:00 Benchmark: 6:18	Baseline: 8:49 Benchmark: 7:56
Rural	Baseline: 1:06 Benchmark: 00:59	Baseline: 2:37 Benchmark: 2:21	Baseline: 10:52 Benchmark: 9:46	Baseline: 12:46 Benchmark: 11:29

EMS

	Alarm Handling	Turnout Time	Travel Time	Response Time
				
Urban	Baseline: 2:35 Benchmark: 2:19	Baseline: 1:56 Benchmark: 1:44	Baseline: 6:38 Benchmark: 5:58	Baseline: 8:00 Benchmark: 7:12
Rural	Baseline: 2:40 Benchmark: 2:24	Baseline: 2:02 Benchmark: 1:49	Baseline: 9:25 Benchmark: 8:28	Baseline: 10:57 Benchmark: 9:51

HazMat

	Alarm Handling	Turnout Time	Travel Time	Response Time
				
Urban	Baseline: 1:06 Benchmark: 00:59	Baseline: 2:15 Benchmark: 2:01	Baseline: 8:03 Benchmark: 7:14	Baseline: 10:21 Benchmark: 9:18
Rural	Baseline: 1:34 Benchmark: 1:24	Baseline: 2:22 Benchmark: 2:07	Baseline: 9:28 Benchmark: 8:31	Baseline: 11:19 Benchmark: 10:11

*Baseline: SRF's 2022 90th percentile performance for low-risk calls.
**Benchmark: Standard set based on 10% improvement of baseline performance.
***This report does not reflect Station 76 data.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Davies Beach, Lake Stevens - Water Rescue

SRFR rescue swimmers recovered three drowning victims at a crowded Davies Beach, and they were transported to local hospitals.



6/26/2022

4800 Block of 228th St SE, Bothell - Plane Crash

An experimental aircraft crashed at 228th St. SE after hitting powerlines. Two occupants and a dog were treated for minor injuries.



7/19/2022

Lake Stevens - Spontaneous Combustion House Fire

Engine 82 arrived to a Lake Stevens house fire. Once extinguished, Snohomish County Fire Marshals stated the cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion in a planter box.



8/31/2022



Lundeen Park, Lake Stevens- Life Jacket Giveaway

In response to the Davies Beach drownings, SRFR partnered with Snohomish Safe Kids, Lake Stevens PD, Seattle Children's, and more to give away over 200 life jackets.



4400 Block of 221st St. SE, Bothell - Structure Fire

A large two-story house caught fire on in the rear of the house and spread into the attic. Crews were able to protect the primary bedrooms and garage where important documents and photos were stored. No one was hurt in the fire.

14200 Block of Galaxy Way, Monroe- WUI Fire

During a period of excessive heat, an urban interface fire broke out and threatened a number of structures. Crews quickly knocked the fire down and monitored the perimeter for any spread.



9/10/2022

13200 Block of SR 2, Snohomish - Plane Crash

An aircraft with four people aboard performing a flight test crashed into an open field killing all aboard. SRFR crews responded alongside Snohomish County Fire District 4 in a mutual aid effort.



11/6/2022

9/19/2022

11/18/2022



Bolt Creek Wildfire

A significant wildfire broke out in the early morning North of Skykomish. About 14,766 acres burned, and it was determined to be human caused. SRFR sent crews to assist with the effort to fight the fire.



400 Block of 97th Ave SE Lake Stevens - Fire

A citizen was alerted of a smoke alarm going off with smoke visible. Engine 82 took an offensive attack on the fire that spread to both floors of the house. Two cats did not survive the fire.

INCIDENT DATA

IN DISTRICT
INCIDENT DISPATCHES

15,288

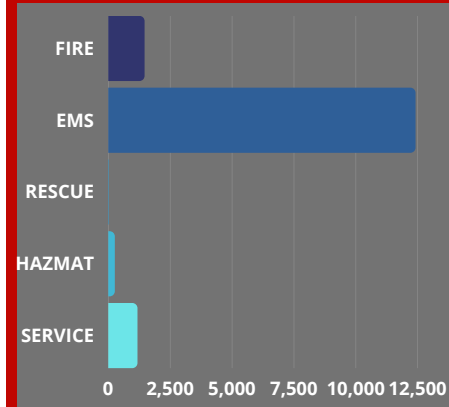
OUT OF DISTRICT
INCIDENT DISPATCHES

3482

TOTAL INCIDENT DISPATCHES

18,770

IN DISTRICT INCIDENT DISPATCHES



1,455		FIRE
12,399		EMS
11		RESCUE
254		HAZMAT
1169		SERVICE

BRUSH FIRE RESPONSES

68

BOLT CREEK FIRE

14,766
ACRES
BURNED

WASHINGTON STATE WILDFIRE STATISTICS

140,000 TOTAL
ACRES BURNED

14 WILDLAND
FIRES WERE
LARGER THAN 100
ACRES

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Fire suppression is a fundamental part of the emergency services provided by Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. Fire suppression has two primary areas of focus: structural and wildland. Each requires very different equipment, training, and response strategies. All operations personnel are cross-trained which means that they are trained to respond to medical emergencies, wildland fires, and structure fires.

STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING

Structure or building fires require firefighters to have the knowledge and equipment that allows them to manage the flow of large volumes of water, search for and rescue occupants trapped inside a building, ventilate roofs, and remove harmful gasses and smoke. The bunker gear that structural firefighters wear protects them from heat and smoke emitted by the structure. The gear that they wear to fight a structure fire weighs approximately 60 pounds.



WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING

Even though brush fires often result in structure fires when buildings are in the wildfire's path of destruction, wildland and brush fires require a completely different set of skills. Wildland fire suppression depends on a fast attack using smaller trucks that have all-terrain capability. You won't often see wildland firefighters wearing bunker gear or air tanks. Instead, they wear lighter gear and use small hand tools and small hose lines to combat the fire. As a part of their initial training, every newly-hired SRFR firefighter completes their Red Card training which certifies them to fight wildland fires. The goal of SRFR is to have 100% of our response personnel trained to the level of initial "Red Card." We are continually striving to reach this goal to keep our community and our responders safe.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

In 2022, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue continued to provide patients with the highest level of EMS care. This caliber of service is reflected in the outstanding ratings delivered by third-party EMS Satisfaction Surveys which ranked our EMS providers at a 95.82% at the end 2022.



212 Stroke Alerts Performed



72 Heart Attack Alerts Performed



Ultrasound Program Launched

In 2022, we responded to **11,120** EMS calls within our jurisdiction and transported **7,030** patients to area hospitals. Of these responses, we performed **212** stroke alerts and **72** heart attack alerts. EMS calls continue to make up over 80% of the calls we see each year. Because of this, we see the importance of continuous training and innovation. This year, we launched our Ultrasound Program which is a tool designed to improve diagnostic capabilities. This important program has room to grow and expand as our training increases in 2023.

Over the course of the year, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue welcomed one new paramedic back to the line after she completed the rigorous Michael Copass Paramedic Training Program at Harbor View Medical Center, and we had another four firefighters begin paramedic school at Central Washington University with the hopes of graduating in the Fall of 2023. We are excited to add to our paramedic team, and we know these new paramedics will be ready to respond when our communities need them most.

EMS PATIENT
SATISFACTION

95.82%

NUMBER OF EMS
RESPONSES

11,120

CPR PERFORMED

112 times

NUMBER OF PATIENT
TRANSPORTS

7,030



COUNTYWIDE TEAM RESPONSES

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM RESPONSES

6

WATER RESCUE RESPONSES

26

HAZMAT TEAM RESPONSES

14

TECHNICAL RESCUE & HAZMAT

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Seven jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional technical rescue response team. Having a regional team combines these rescue resources and reduces duplication to provide a seamless and efficient emergency response. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue houses one of three dedicated technical rescue apparatus available in the county. The Tech Rescue Team is made up of highly trained professionals who are ready to assist with tasks associated with the following rescue disciplines:

- Trench Rescue
- Water/Ice Rescue
- Rope Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Urban Search & Rescue (USAR)



WATER RESCUE

SRFR has three major rivers, the county's largest lake, and countless, smaller bodies of water within our jurisdiction. These waterways are heavily trafficked during the summer months and are often the spots where we respond to water related rescue calls; such as missing person(s), capsized boats, vehicle submersion, flooding, and drownings. The Water Rescue Team is highly trained in swift water rescue, boat operations, rescue swimming for free diving to 40 feet deep, and long distance swims.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

Five jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response team to better serve our respective communities. Their 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 protective clothing and equipment needed to respond to calls involving these dangerous and potentially toxic materials.



TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division provides a well-rounded training program that endeavors to engage all levels of operations in relevant instruction. It strives to ensure that all personnel are appropriately trained to perform their designated job functions. The Training Division ensures all personnel meet or surpass the training standards set by federal, state, and local regulating bodies. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue maintains a continuous training model as required by the *Washington Administrative Code WAC 296-305* and the Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) standards. The district uses a master training calendar that projects the annual training requirements and classes for the year to help guide the training process that occurs. All training records are maintained in Vector Solutions, an online training platform.

In 2022, we were able to reestablish in-person training, host training classes, and send personnel to training events around the state and the nation. This gives us greater ability to explore new ideas and techniques and to collaborate with surrounding departments so we can better serve our community. The Training Division continues to bring additional training to the department in the form of new training props, relationships with local businesses that provide training opportunities, and multi-company training with our neighboring departments. The Training Division is finding creative ways to incorporate and invite surrounding agencies to attend certification level classes and in return is able to count on these departments to supplement our training needs as they arise.

2022
Training
Topics

- Firefighter Strategies and Tactics
- Firefighter Safety
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hazardous Materials
- Search and Rescue
- Fire Protection Systems
- Driver/Operator Pumping Development
- Leadership

TRAINING HOURS

52,252

22 NEW CAREER
FIREFIGHTERS -
INITIAL HOURS OF
TRAINING

21,480

7 ACADEMY
COMPANY
OFFICERS-
INITIAL HOURS OF
TRAINING

5,200



NUMBER OF BURN
PERMITS ISSUED

342

ANNUAL FIRE
SAFETY
INSPECTIONS

649

APPROX.
CONSTRUCTION
PERMIT
INSPECTIONS

504

PLAN REVIEWS

818

THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL:

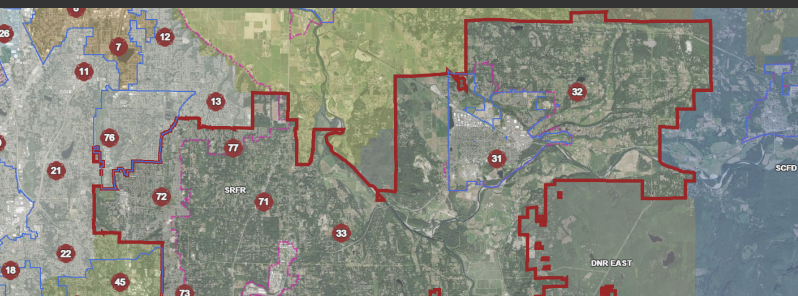
The Planning Section is home to the Office of the Fire Marshal. Our specially trained staff focus on implementing projects and programs that prevent injuries, loss of life, fire damage to property, and environmental harm. Fire and life safety prevention activities identify and prioritize risks, then direct resources in a coordinated effort to minimize the probability and consequence of both natural and man-made disasters.

Historically, the Office of the Fire Marshal conducts all fire code review and enforcement activities within the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, Monroe, and Sultan. Fire Marshals work with local business owners and developers to educate on contemporary fire and life safety best practices. A safer community is achieved through:

Community Risk Assessment: Using the Commission of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) Community Risk Assessment model, methods are used to classify and categorize risk based on probability of occurrence, consequence to the community, and impact to emergency response resources. The community risk assessment then aids in decision making for the distribution of fire stations, concentration of staff and apparatus, and reliability of our emergency response.

Risk Mitigation Programs: Based on the results of the community risk assessment, programs such as annual fire safety inspections, focused public education, targeted community engagement, and changes to emergency response deployment are made to address identified risks where they occur.

Continuous Improvement: The community risk assessment helps to establish historical baseline risk occurrence and performance for our fire and life safety programs and emergency response. Using national standards and best practices SRFR can set benchmarks that alert staff to changes in our performance and community for which we need to assess. This cycle of assessment, enhancement, and enactment is proof of our dedication to excellence.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC EDUCATION

By the Spring of 2022, many schools had already welcomed students back in person, but many chose to limit in-person visitors. Because of this, our education team continued to offer classes online to suit the hybrid model, and we offered in-person lessons when allowed by the school district. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's educators were able to deliver lessons to the 2nd grade, Kindergarten, and High School classrooms in our district, and in the Fall, we had the pleasure of being able to return to all classrooms in person! Over the course of the calendar year, we taught a total of 1,725 students who participated in lessons in person, from home, or from their classrooms. In the late Spring, we also had the opportunity to deliver a Mock DUI demonstration for one of our local high schools to teach students about the dangers of impaired driving.

In 2022, we also successfully launched our Adult and Senior Safety classes: Home Fire Safety, Disaster Preparedness, and Aging in Place. These classes were offered online and in person and allowed our team to interact with the adults and seniors in our communities. Class participants learned about smoke alarms, sheltering in place, escape planning, emergency preparedness kits, medication safety, and falls prevention. In the Fall, we worked with local senior centers to regularly deliver the classes in person. We had a great response to these classes and plan to continue to offer more classes in 2023!

In addition to teaching online and in-person classes, we hosted two water safety camps over the summer where campers were taught about life jackets, paddling safety, and situational awareness. Early in the summer, we partnered with local agencies to distribute 200 life jackets in response to multiple local drownings. We also attended various community events throughout the summer including Lake Stevens Aquafest and National Night Out Against Crime. For Fire Prevention Week in October, we hosted our annual Open House which featured safety booths, our fire safety trailer, the firefighter challenge course, and auto extrication demonstrations. This open house allowed us to interact with community members and share safety information with over 600 attendees!



TOTAL NUMBER OF
CLASSROOMS
VISITED

81



NUMBER OF ADULT
& SENIOR SAFETY
CLASSES

17



COMMUNITY
EVENTS
HOSTED/ATTENDED

55



TOTAL STUDENTS
TAUGHT

1,725



