



## SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Heather Chadwick – Public Information Officer  
[Hchadwick@Snofire7.org](mailto:Hchadwick@Snofire7.org) • 425-245-2662

### Firefighters give holiday cheer through annual gift giving

[Monroe, WA] – With four days until Christmas, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue continues the annual tradition of showing residents holiday cheer by delivering gifts to families. The tradition of adopting local families in need for the holidays started 11 years ago.

“We are honored and humbled to have this opportunity to help families in need, especially this year,” said Lieutenant Joe Basta, the organizer of the annual gift giving drive. “So many families have been dealing with more this year, and this is small way to show them that we care.”

Lieutenant Basta partners with local non-profit organizations to identify families who live within the service area who are in need. This year, with so many families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue was able to give to 150 kids.

“Although this year has presented many challenges, we were determined to continue the tradition and give back to our communities as we have in years past,” said Lieutenant. Basta.

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*At the beginning of 2020, Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 merged agencies and formed Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. The district serves over 162,000 people over 140 square miles and is dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people in a fiscally responsible manner. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, and Monroe along with the unincorporated areas surrounding these communities. In 2019, emergency personnel responded to more than 17,000 emergency calls. Through community support, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has built an advanced emergency response system in Snohomish County with highly trained personnel and progressive rescue programs. We appreciate your support and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.*

