



For Immediate Release

Date: April 20, 2021
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Water Rescue turns into a mistake, but serves as a safety reminder for all

[Monroe, WA] – On April 18th, firefighters were dispatched at 9:25 pm to a report of a missing person on the river without a life jacket near the Lewis Street Boat Launch in Monroe. The reporting party, who was floating the river with the missing person, called 911 after the pair went through rapids, he looked back and couldn't find his friend.

Boat 31 along with multiple drones and first responders searched the river for several hours. The rescue mission was cancelled when the missing person walked into the command area unharmed. The individual is very fortunate to have no injuries, however, it serves as a reminder to all about the dangers on the river.

As we approach the warmer weather, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue wants to make sure everyone enjoys the water safely:

- Rivers and lakes are extremely cold this time of year and can cause hypothermia. It is not recommended to go swimming.
- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket no matter how good a swimmer you are. Washington state law requires children ages 12 years and younger to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket or vest.
- Never use alcohol or drugs while you are swimming, diving or boating.
- When floating the river, have a plan for where and how long you'll float, and tell someone not with you. Have a way to contact you in case you don't arrive when expected.

Have a safe summer season.

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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 175,000 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 2020, emergency personnel responded to more than 16,000 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.

