



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

For Immediate Release

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### **Lake Stevens House Fire Caused by Spontaneous Combustion**

[Monroe, Wa] - Yesterday, August 31st, at 3:50 PM, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue responded to a residential fire near the 3100 Block of 78th Ave SE in Lake Stevens. When Engine 82 arrived, the entire back side of the house was on fire and flames were extending into the attic. They pulled hose to the back of the house to attack the flames. Moments later, Engine 43 with Snohomish County Fire District 4 arrived and ran a hose through the front of the house. Engine 83 arrived and began roof operations by venting the roof to expel heat and smoke from the attic. Once those cuts were made, firefighters were able to quickly put out the fire.

This is a great example of how venting the roof helps firefighters knock down fires more effectively by reducing hot gases that help fuel the fire, and clearing smoke to gain better access to the base of the fire.

The Fire Marshal's office was called and they determined the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of soil in a flower pot on the deck. Plants, moss, and bark spontaneously combusting can happen, but is rare. Security video also helped investigators determine the cause.

It is recommended that dry combustible materials are not kept near houses or decks. Build a defensible zone around your house by keeping the grass around your house green and using fire-resistant landscaping and plants.

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