

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

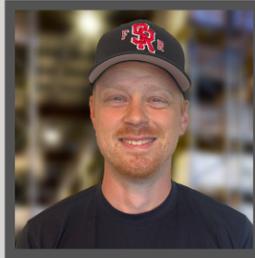
## NEW HIRES:



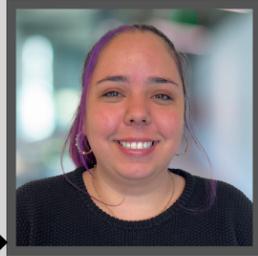
We are excited to welcome **Paul Charbeneau** as our Information Technology Manager!



We are excited to welcome **Scott Dotson** as SRFR's Benefits Administrative Specialist!



We are excited to welcome Logistics Technician **Justin Swift** to the SRFR family!



We are excited to welcome Administrative Assistant - Support **Laura Gonzalez** to the SRFR family!



We are excited to welcome Administrative Assistant - Reception **Allison Lamb** to the SRFR family!



Please join us in welcoming our newest recruit firefighters (left to right): **Brett Litten, Jordan Noto, Ana Tower, Ciara Vargas, Nate Pardo, Katherine Davis, Mitchell Wurm, Mauricio Padilla, David Rouse, Erik Marty, Scott Guittar, Rande Gruenwald, & Shawn Pittman.** These positions were filled to replace vacancies due to retirements & attrition.

## SRFR FAST FACTS:

- ✓ We serve 160,000 residents covering over 135 square miles, including Lake Stevens, Monroe, Maltby, Clearview, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County.
- ✓ We provide fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) through highly-trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs, and we offer comprehensive prevention and education programs.
- ✓ We respond to an average of 16,000 emergency calls per year, and our cardiac save rate is twice the national average.
- ✓ We have 10 different stations strategically placed throughout our district.
- ✓ We are the first fire agency in Snohomish County to achieve international accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

## PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Luke Bagley!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Steve Johnson!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Kirk Dunham!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Battalion Chief Brendan Grace!**

## RETIREMENTS:



Congratulations to **Lieutenant Greg Oakes** on his retirement after 35 years in the fire service! Thank you for your many years of service!



Congratulations to **Assistant Chief Steve Guptill** on his retirement after 34 years in the fire service! Thank you for your many years of leadership and dedication to the district!





# SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

## FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

**Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?**

**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**

**NPFA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**Pay attention to fire prevention!**



**PAY ATTENTION TO FIRE PREVENTION!**

**OPEN HOUSES**

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
6:00PM-8:00PM  
Station 81  
8010 180th Street SE  
12409 21st St NE  
Station 71

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**  
12:00PM-4:00PM  
Station 31  
163 Village Court, Monroe

Large Open House, Station Tour, Informational Booths, Auto Extermination Demo, Fire Engine Tours, & Fun Activities for Kids

Fire Prevention Week: October 8-14 2023 For more info visit [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org)

- ✓ You are invited to join us as we celebrate Fire Prevention Week 2023!
- ✓ Join us at our large Open House on October 14th at Station 31 in Monroe!
- ✓ Join us at our smaller Open Houses on October 9th in Clearview & Lake Stevens district!
- ✓ Learn about fire safety and about our fire family will enjoy!
- ✓ Participate in fun activities the whole family will enjoy!
- ✓ See and tour our fire engines and aid units.
- ✓ Meet and greet our fabulous crews and support staff!

## FPW OPEN HOUSES

CONNECT WITH US: [www.SRFR.org](https://www.SRFR.org) @SnoRegionalFire 360.794.7666

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Litho Craft  
98036

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer

163 Village Court  
Monroe WA 98272



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) has had a very productive year so far. We are wrapping up a busy event season where we attended multiple community events and hosted three Water Safety Camps. Earlier this year, SRFR became the first accredited agency in Snohomish County by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. This is the highest level of achievement possible for a fire agency. It was a labor-intensive effort, and I am thankful for our team here at SRFR who made that happen.

Accreditation means that you have the highest level and quality of emergency services in the nation. Everything we do, from responding to 911 calls to managing tax dollars, has been vetted by an independent commission and group of peer assessors. This speaks to our ability to save lives and to our accountability for spending your tax dollars wisely.

We also appreciate you and know we couldn't provide this level and quality of emergency services without your support. This includes being on the ballot every few years to renew our fire levy or levy for emergency medical service.

This November, we are asking voters to return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is a rate previously approved by voters, but does mean an increase. You can learn more about the fire levy lid lift at [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org).

Funding would be used to fill emergency responder and support position vacancies and contribute to fire station construction projects without taking on voter-approved debt. In the coming weeks, please join me for one of our community presentations about the ballot measure. Dates and times will be posted on our website. I also welcome your questions at [kevin.obrien@SRFR.org](mailto:kevin.obrien@SRFR.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kevin K. O'Brien  
Your Fire Chief



## READY, SET, GO!

In the event of a wildfire, do you know what to do? Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is partnering with various emergency management agencies across the region, including **Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM)**, to spread a unified evacuation message of "Ready, Set, Go!". With the recent tragedies on the island of Maui and the fatal fires in Spokane County this last month, we want residents to be ready for wildfires and set to go when the calls of evacuations sound. The "Ready, Set, Go!" evacuation model informs the public about how to respond to the three levels of evacuations (previously Levels 1, 2, and 3) and explains the actions they should take at each level when alerted by authorities!

**READY**

- Be fire wise. Cut back trees, brush, and keep woodpiles at least 30 feet from home.
- Scout evacuation routes.
- Know where to take your family, pets and livestock.
- Monitor news and weather reports for fire risk.

**SET**

- Keep your phone on and charged.
- Pack up important papers, pets, and prescriptions.
- Assemble emergency kit, including portable radio and flashlight.
- Move livestock to safer ground. There may be no time later.
- Sign up for SnoCoAlerts at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)

**GO!**

- Leave when told to evacuate! Fire won't wait.
- Post your contact information and where you are going on your door.
- Follow pre-designated routes.
- Register with Red Cross Safe and Well site once clear of threat. [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Learn more about Ready, Set, Go! here:

## ON YOUR BALLOT:

*Lid Lift to Maintain Level and Quality of Emergency Services*

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is asking voters for a fire levy lid lift to fund station improvements and staffing needs to maintain the quality and level of emergency services important to the community. The proposal will appear on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot.

If approved by voters, the lid lift will hire emergency personnel and support positions, and contribute to fire station renovation/construction projects. The lid lift will allow us to fund capital items, such as fire station renovations, without taking on voter-approved debt with interest payments.

This lid lift is \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would return the fire levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000. Voters approved this rate in 2021.

Revenue increases do not increase by the same amount as property values. By law, we are limited to a 1% revenue increase per year (or an amount voters approve). You can learn more about the lid lift and costs on our website at [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org).



**NOVEMBER 7TH GENERAL ELECTION**

## COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU.



This year, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to celebrate **Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 8-14, 2023**. This year's FPW campaign, "Cooking Safety Starts with YOU-Pay Attention to Fire Prevention," emphasizes simple but important steps you can take when cooking to keep yourself and those around you safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. "Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," says Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

SRFR wants to share these key cooking safety tips:

- Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan, and turn off the burner.
- Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

SRFR is hosting our annual **Station 31 Open House** in support of Fire Prevention Week on **Saturday, October 14th from 12:00PM-4:00PM at Station 31 in Monroe (163 Village Court)**. SRFR will also host two smaller open houses at the beginning of the week on **Monday, October 9th, from 6:00PM-8:00PM, at Station 71 (8010 180th Street SE) and Station 81 (12409 21st St NE)**.

To find out more, please contact [CommunityRelations@SRFR.org](mailto:CommunityRelations@SRFR.org) or visit our website at [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org). For more general information about Fire Prevention Week, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).

Learn more about Fire Prevention Week at [www.FPW.org](http://www.FPW.org)



## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

September is National Disaster Preparedness month. Although we love to shine a light on preparedness this time of year, we also want to make sure that people are prepared all year long! Here in Snohomish County, many of us know about the various disasters that could affect our region especially as the rainy season approaches. Some of the potential disasters that are more likely to occur in the fall include flooding, landslides, severe weather, and wildfires. It is important to know that we can't always prevent these events from happening, but we can PREPARE for them.

Here are a few steps you can take today:



### Make a Kit

- At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:
  - Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
  - Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
  - Flashlight
  - Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
  - Extra batteries
  - First aid kit
  - Medications (7-day supply) & medical items
  - Multi-purpose tool
  - Sanitation and personal hygiene items
  - Copies of personal documents
  - Cell phone with charger & emergency contact info
  - Extra cash & map(s) of the area
  - Emergency blankets
  - Medication & food for pets



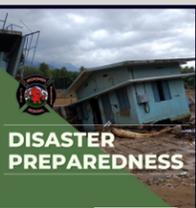
### Make a Plan

- Meet with your family to discuss how to prepare for emergencies.
- Plan what to do if you are separated during an emergency.
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service.



### Be Informed & Learn

- Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), for more information about how you and your family can prepare for a disaster.
- Follow the QR code above to view the hazard map created by **Snohomish County DEM**.
- Take a class. Register for our next **Disaster Preparedness Class**
  - October 11, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
  - Go to [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org) to register!



### Watch Our Lesson

- Follow the QR code above to watch or visit [SRFR.org/education](http://SRFR.org/education)!
- Learn about the disasters in our area and how to prepare for them!
- Complete the fun worksheets and activities.

