

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## NEW HIRES:



Please join us in welcoming our newest recruit firefighters (left to right) : Back Row: **Brendan Kenny, Ryan Dolan, Nathan Powers, Colter Trent, Connor Mack, Brandon Dormaier, Nicolas Perich.** Front Row: **Matthew Bourland, Brandon Larosa, Bryton Lewi, Brent Siegfried, Alex Minerich, Noah Bomar, Cory Masters.** These positions were filled to replace vacancies due to retirements & attrition.

## PROMOTIONS:



⚡ Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant MSO Cory Odgers!**



⚡ Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Matt Millich!**



⚡ Congratulations to newly promoted **Journey Mechanic Jeremy Jensen!**



⚡ Congratulations to newly promoted **Journey Mechanic Kerry Pray!**



⚡ Congratulations to newly promoted **Captain MSO John Rouse!**

# SRFR LEADERSHIP:

After many years of dedicated service, Chief O'Brien officially retired this past July, leaving behind a legacy of strong leadership and commitment to the community. At the July 10 board meeting, the District held a formal Transfer of Command, marking a significant moment as Chief Brian Park stepped into the role of Fire Chief.



Chief Park comes from Rialto Fire in California, where he started in 1999 as a firefighter/paramedic and worked his way up the ranks to Fire Chief in 2018.

Chief Park holds an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Service, a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration, and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. He earned his Executive Chief Fire Officer (ECFO) designation through California State Fire Training and his Certified Chief Fire Officer (CFO) credential through the Commission on Professional Credentialing.

Following a rigorous selection process, including multiple rounds of panel interviews and final approval by the Board of Commissioners, Chief Park stepped into the role and immediately began engaging with several SRFR initiatives. He became actively involved in developing a new Strategic Plan and met with more than 200 SRFR personnel to build relationships and gather insights. In his first 30 days, Chief Park completed 50 station visits and is actively focused on building relationships with community members.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is excited to have Chief Brian Park as our next Fire Chief and values the experience and perspective that he brings to the District and the communities SRFR serves.

## RETIREMENT:



⚡ Congratulations to Chief Kevin O'Brien on his retirement after 34 years in the fire service! Thank you for your many years of service, leadership, and dedication to the district and to the community at large! We hope you enjoy a well-deserved retirement!

**NEW!** Sign up for our Digital Mailing List!  
<https://bit.ly/SRFRNews>



# SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

## FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

**CHARGE**  
**into Fire Safety™**  
**Lithium-Ion Batteries**  
**in Your Home**

- BUY only listed products.
- CHARGE devices safely.
- RECYCLE batteries responsibly.

fpw.org  
NFA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue  
SAVE THE DATE

**CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY!**  
Bring the entire family to our fire station open house and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with SRFR!

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

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

Fire Prevention Week: October 5-11, 2025  
www.SRFR.org

- ### YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2025!
- ## FPW OPEN HOUSE
- ✓ Join us at our Open House October 4th at Station 31 in Monroe!
  - ✓ Learn about fire safety and about our fire district!
  - ✓ 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!

CONNECT WITH US: @SnoRegionalFire

360.794.7666

www.SRFR.org

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SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,

As summer turns to fall, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the community for the incredibly warm welcome over the past several weeks. The spirit, pride, and kindness that define this region have been felt deeply by our entire team, and it's a privilege to serve such a strong and connected community.

We also want to take a moment to honor the legacy of retiring Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien, whose years of steadfast leadership and vision helped build the strong foundation we proudly stand on today. His impact on SRFR and the communities we serve will be lasting, and we thank him for his dedicated service.

Throughout the summer, SRFR personnel proudly supported a variety of community events, including three Water Safety Camps, Aquafest in Lake Stevens and National Night Out celebrations in Monroe, Clearview, and Lake Stevens. Whether flipping pancakes, staffing First Aid booths, or connecting with local families, our firefighters, paramedics, and support staff continue to exemplify the service and compassion at the heart of this organization.

As we move into the fall season, safety remains a top priority. With the return of the school year, we encourage drivers to be extra cautious in school zones and near school buses. It's also a good time to check your smoke alarms and revisit your family's emergency plan — especially as we approach winter weather.

Looking ahead, while our crews are already out in the community every day, the SRFR leadership team is making it a priority to visit with residents across all the communities we serve. Building relationships, listening, and learning are key to how we lead and how we grow, and we look forward to those conversations in the weeks and months ahead.

To those who live, work, and raise families in our region: thank you for your continued trust. And to the incredible people of SRFR, thank you for your daily commitment to service. It's an honor to be part of this team and this mission.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and healthy fall season.

Take Care & Stay Safe,

Brian Park  
Your Fire Chief



# CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this type of battery. If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode. To reduce these risks, look around your home — it's important to know which devices are powered by them. "Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they're just about everywhere," says Kaitlin King, Public Information & Education Officer. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps people understand the importance of using these batteries correctly to prevent fires in the home and to follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach."

Buy only listed products.

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices safely.

- Always use the cables that came with the product to charge it. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly.

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue encourages all residents to be aware of their devices, follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach, and support this year's FPW theme, "Charge into Fire Safety."

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is hosting our annual Station 31 Open House to kick off this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **October 4th from 12:00PM-4:00PM at Station 31 in Monroe (163 Village Court).** Bring a worksheet from our website to be entered into a drawing for a prize! 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 lithium-ion battery safety & FPW here: [www.FPW.org](http://www.FPW.org)



# SEASONAL SAFETY CHECK-IN

During the fall and the winter months, many people also like to use candles to brighten their home. Last fall, SRFR responded to two house fires caused by candles, and so far has responded to over 785 fire calls in 2025. Candles may be pretty to look at, but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and NFPA recommend the following:

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

## CANDLE SAFETY

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue also reminds you to make sure your home is equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Don't forget to install, test, and maintain these devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It is also important to know two ways out of every room and to plan and practice your escape in case of a fire.

Learn more about candle safety here: [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.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 **Online Disaster Prep. Class.**
- Go to [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org) to register or to request a class for your community group.



## 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.

