

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## NEW HIRES:



Please join us in welcoming our newest recruit firefighters: **Quinn Evans, Seth Lawson, and Karlie McMillan.** These positions were filled to replace vacancies due to retirements & attrition.

## RETIREMENTS:



Congratulations to **Battalion Chief Ray Kosiba** on his retirement after 28 years in the fire service!



Congratulations to **Battalion Chief Rob Fisher** on his retirement after 36 years in the fire service!



Congratulations to **Lieutenant Jeff Thompson** on his retirement after 35 years in the fire service!



Congratulations to **Lieutenant Ron Adams** on his retirement after 45 years in the fire service!

## FIREHOUSE FEATURE HAZMAT TEAM

Five jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional hazardous materials (HazMat) response team to better serve their respective communities. The team utilizes various levels of protective clothing and equipment needed to respond to calls involving these dangerous and potentially toxic materials.

The Snohomish County Hazardous Materials Team has approximately 100 HazMat technicians all coming from 5 different participating agencies. The team, which is governed by a Special Operations Policy Board, has 4 apparatus with 1 currently housed at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue's Station 72.

The team has assembled a vast array of technical equipment that provides the ability to detect and/or identify chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials. Various levels of chemical protective clothing and equipment needed to enter dangerous atmospheres are stored on our HazMat units. Using these materials, our HazMat technicians can perform hazard risk assessments which involve estimating chemical release rates and downwind threats to populations by using current weather data and plume dispersion modeling technology.

Last year, SRFR HazMat technicians completed 480 hours of HazMat technician level training. In 2023, SRFR provided hazardous materials response to the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and surrounding unincorporated areas.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 18th:** Life Jacket Distribution
- **July 9th:** Water Safety Camp-Lake Tye
  - Registration open **April 17th!**
  - Scan to register!
- **July 17th:** Water Safety Camp-Lundeen Park
  - Registration open **April 17th!**
  - Scan to register!
- **July 26th-28th:** Aquafest
- **August 6th:** NNO
- **October 12th:** Fire Prevention Week Open House

Water Safety Camp Registration!

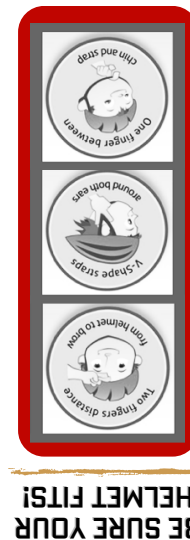


SCAN ME



## SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

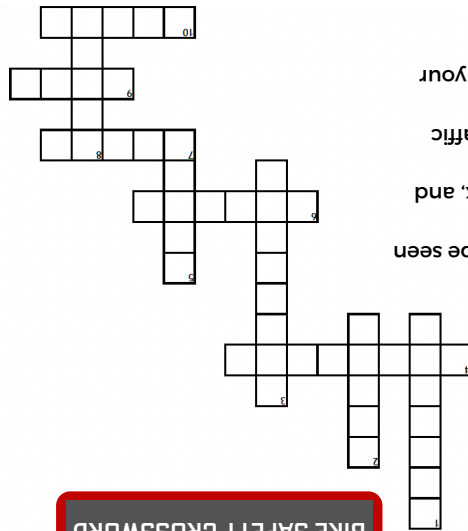
### SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



BE SURE YOUR HELMET FITS!

- Down
1. What do you need to look out for while riding your bike?
  2. Never ride without
  3. Use caution when riding a bike to avoid what?
  4. You should wear your helmet on
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ clothing is not safe to use while riding a bike
  6. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. \_\_\_\_\_
  8. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. When the traffic light is \_\_\_\_\_
  10. When the traffic light is \_\_\_\_\_

BIKE SAFETY CROSSWORD



- ★ Always wear a helmet.
- ★ Wear brightly colored clothes to be seen better.
- ★ Make sure to ride on the sidewalk, and stay away from cars.
- ★ Always stop at STOP signs and traffic lights.
- ★ If you need to cross a street, walk your bike across; don't ride.

www.SRFR.org

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

After the rainy winter months, the signs of spring are a welcome reminder of the power of change and new growth. Here at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR), we are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to constantly adapt, evaluate, and aim to be the best that we can be.

Your support makes all this possible, and it allows us to grow and seek out new opportunities to evolve and improve. Our rigorous improvement process is born out of our status as an internationally accredited agency with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This process requires us to annually reflect on current performance and constantly look for new ways to improve. CFAI accreditation is an ongoing commitment to seek continuous improvement and refinement. Ultimately, accredited agencies provide a higher level of service to the community. We are honored to be accredited, and we look forward to continuously improving our service to the community.

As part of our annual review process, we also take the time to recognize the hard work of our team. Our members have continued to play an active role in public safety education to promote safety in our homes, schools, and workplaces. Our crews have maintained high training standards in the lifesaving skills of emergency medical care, fire suppression, water rescue, technical rescue, hazardous material response, and wildland fire suppression. We have also made significant improvements to our employee onboarding and probationary firefighter training processes to increase the readiness and diversity of our workforce.

We continue to make improvements to critical infrastructure in order to support emergency service delivery. We recently began our Machias Station 83 remodel project which will provide adequate room for our firefighters and addresses the need for seismic improvements. Our emergency vehicle maintenance facility in Monroe is being updated to support fleet maintenance and repairs. We are in the process of strategically relocating Station 32 to better serve the residents of Monroe. We are also in the process of hiring a design and construction team to accomplish our plans for rebuilding Station 81 in downtown Lake Stevens. We will seek community feedback on our station designs as a part of the process.

Community feedback is a priority. We want to be sure that, above all, we are responsive to the needs of our community. With this in mind, we are working to establish a Community Advisory Committee where insight from community members will help guide our future initiatives and efforts. We are seeking input regarding our long-range planning, scope of services, and strategic initiatives to ensure that they align with community expectations.

As always, it is an honor to serve you and partner with you to become the best fire agency we can be.

Take Care and Stay Safe,  
Kevin O'Brien, Your Fire Chief



# FIRE MARSHAL SERVICES



Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) provides much more than emergency response to fires, medical events, HazMat spills, and technical rescues. We also work hard to prevent these incidents from occurring. The Division of Support Services is home to the Office of the Fire Marshal where our specially trained staff provide proactive fire safety inspections and fire code enforcement for the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and Sultan.



Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue employs four fire marshals, all certified by the International Code Council in fire code inspection, enforcement and plan review. In addition, the fire marshals hold credentials as certified firefighters, paramedics, HazMat technicians and fire investigators. Together, these dedicated employees have over 30 years of experience as fire marshals.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau assesses the capability of fire service providers within the State of Washington. One of the four categories of fire service rating focuses on fire safety, specifically the frequency of fire safety inspections, certifications held by fire marshals, and years of experience working as a fire marshal.

Per state law, SRFR enforces the 2018 International Fire Code with Washington amendments. SRFR's goal is to inspect all businesses for fire safety annually to help maintain and improve the level of safety in our community for our citizens and emergency responders. We are able to accomplish this by employing expertly trained fire marshals, using robust computer systems and software, and working as a collaborative partner with our cities and business owners.

## The top 8 fire code violations found in our local businesses by our fire marshals are:

- Emergency lights not working, needing new bulbs or batteries
- Fire extinguishers needing annual service
- Misuse of extension cords
- Fire district key box needing new keys
- Ceiling tiles or holes in walls needing to be repaired
- Exit signs not working, needing new bulbs or batteries
- Fire sprinkler or fire alarm systems needing annual service or repair
- Cooking hood suppression systems needing biannual service or repair

# CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHECK YOUR ALARMS



Last month, we adjusted our clocks for daylight savings. This is always the time of year that we like to remind people to check their alarms while changing their clocks. In today's homes, people have three minutes or less to escape in the event of a fire. Smoke alarms are able to give you the much needed time to escape. Because of this, it is important to test alarms regularly, so that you know that they are in working order in the event of a fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported home fire nearly in half.

By taking the following simple steps, SRFR residents can ensure their households stay safe in the event of a fire:

- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms older than 10 years. This includes alarms with 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms. Check the manufacture date on the back of the alarm. Alarms should not be more than ten years past this date.
- Close bedroom doors at night. Closed doors help stop fires from spreading.

In addition to monthly testing, make sure you have the recommended amount of smoke alarms in your home. They should be installed in **every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home**, including the basement. For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced.

When providing information about smoke alarms, we are often asked what type of alarm is best. Essentially, there are two different types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric.

- An **ionization alarm** is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a pan fire.
- A **photoelectric alarm** is typically more responsive to a smoldering fire, as might occur where a lighted cigarette is dropped on a sofa.

Combination smoke alarms have ionization and photoelectric capabilities. In accordance with NFPA, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue recommends installing either combination alarms, or both types of alarms, in bedrooms, as well as throughout the home. When shopping for alarms look for the words "multi-sensor" or "dual-sensor". Whichever type of smoke alarms you choose, make sure they are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Want to learn more? Sign up for our next **Home Fire Safety** class at [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org).

Learn more about Smoke Alarms at [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org)



SCAN ME

# POISON PREVENTION



In March, we celebrated Poison Prevention Month. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, more than 90% of the time, poisonings happen in people's homes. The majority of these poisonings occur in the kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom. That is why it is important to follow these simple steps to prevent a poisoning from happening at home:

## Medicines

- Keep all medicines, and potentially poisonous substances, in locked cabinets or out of the reach of children.
- Keep medicines in their original containers, properly labeled, and store them appropriately.
- Never share prescription medicines. If you are taking more than one drug at a time, check with your healthcare provider, or pharmacist. Call the toll-free Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222) to find out more about possible drug interactions or about a potential poisoning.

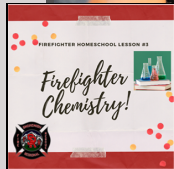
## Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- Have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home. The best places for a CO detector are near bedrooms and close to furnaces.

## Household Products

- Household cleaners and disinfectants can make you sick when not used properly. Always follow the instructions on the product label to ensure safe and effective use.
- Keep all household cleaners and potentially poisonous substances in locked cabinets or out of the reach of children, and keep products in their original containers.
- Keep all laundry products locked up, high, and out of the reach of children.

Want to learn more? Check out Washington Poison Center at: [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org).



- Use the QR code ([www.SRFR.org/education](http://www.SRFR.org/education)) to watch the lesson!
- Learn about our HAZMAT team & about poison prevention!



Watch Our Lesson



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