# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## **PROMOTIONS:**





Congratulations to newly promoted **District** Administrative **Coordinator Brandon** Vargas!



## **RETIREMENTS:**



Congratulations to Battalion Chief Brian Hyatt on his retirement after 35 years in the fire service! Snohomish **Regional Fire & Rescue** thanks him for his many years of leadership!



Congratulations to Driver Operator Bill Ekse on his retirement after 22+ years in the fire service! Snohomish **Regional Fire & Rescue thanks** him for his many years of service!





We are excited to welcome our newest **AP/AR Specialist Ellie** Ruiz to the SRFR family! Ellie is a resident of the district, and she brings 7 years of finance experience to Snohomish **Regional Fire & Rescue.** 

## FIREHOUSE FEATURE F SR TECHNICAL RESCUE

Five jurisdictions in Snohomish County have come together as partners to create a regional technical rescue response team to better serve our communities. The responders, from the five member agencies, are initially trained as Technical Rescue Technicians, and they maintain certification in accordance with national consensus standards, and state and local regulations. The five member agencies include: Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, South County Fire, Marysville Regional Fire Authority, Mukilteo Fire Department, and Everett Fire Department.

The remainder of the fire protection agencies in Snohomish County support this countywide technical rescue team through financial assistance and are known as affiliate agencies.

Having a regional team combines rescue resources and reduces duplication to provide a seamless and efficient emergency response. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has one of four countywide, dedicated technical rescue apparatus stationed in the district. These four response apparatus are staffed 24 hours a day in Snohomish County.

Team members complete special training in rope, trench, and confined space rescue along with urban search and rescue. Initial training is a minimum of 40 hours per discipline, and annually members must complete a minimum of 32 hours of

continuing education. Members also instruct other first responders throughout the county in operational level skills in rescue disciplines to assist the rescue team on rescue type emergencies.

**Snohomish Regional Fire &** Rescue currently has a combination of 23 firefighters, company officers, and paramedics on the Technical Rescue Team.

Scan to learn more about our Tech Rescue Team!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- July 11th & 14th: Water Safety Camp-Lake Tye
- Registration Required
- July 17th: Water Safety Camp-Lundeen Park Learn more at Registration Required www.SRFR.org
- July 29th: Aquafest-Lake Stevens
- August 1st: National Night Out-Multiple Locations
- August 13th: Echo Lake Community Block Party
- August 19th: Lake Stevens Back to School Event
- August 30th: Monroe Back to School Resource Fair
- September 9th: Belonging Day-Monroe
- October 14th: Fire Prevention Week Open House-Monroe



# SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER







RFR

NATER RESCUE

Postal Customer **ECRWSS** 



# SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

#### Dear Neighbor,

I had a moment, recently, that caused me to reflect. It was at a public event and a resident asked, "Why are you in emergency services?"

There are a lot of paths my life could have taken. However, I always knew that being a firefighter was the right calling for me. My great-uncle and uncle were firefighters before me. Two of my sons have chosen a career path in emergency services, as well. I am filled with pride when I think of my legacy and theirs.

How many people wake up in the morning loving their job? I do. I may be a fire chief, but I love being a firefighter the most.

Every day I know that we can save a life, or make someone's worst day better with compassionate care and service. That's what drives us at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. It's important for people to understand how committed we are to you and your family.

That's why we went through the rigorous process of earning agency accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This is the highest level of achievement possible for a fire agency, and with this achievement, SRFR became the first accredited agency in Snohomish County.

This is a multi-year process that ensures continuous service improvements for the residents and businesses in our fire district. The CFAI Commission assesses everything, including budget and finance practices, capital plans, daily operations to boots on the ground, governance transparency and accountability you name it.

To achieve this honor is a testimony to the team we have at SRFR and the support we receive from our community. We could not obtain this level of achievement without our community backing us personally and financially.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely, Kevin K. O'Brien **Your Fire Chief** 



# **OUTDOOR SUMMER SAFETY**

As the weather heats up, many of us look to take our adventures outdoors. When you are enjoying nature this summer, we ask that you remember to keep safety in mind. Here are some tips to think about when exploring the great outdoors!

#### Hiking:

- Every time you go hiking be sure to carry the 10 essentials: a topographic map, compass, extra food, water, extra clothing, fire starter and matches, sun protection, a pocket knife, first-aid kit, and flashlight.
- Check trail and weather conditions before you head out for the day.
- Be prepared for inclement weather and snow in higher elevations.

#### Camping:

- Campfires should only be started by an adult, and be sure to keep lighters & matches away from kids.
- Keep young children and pets away from fire.
- Make sure your campfire is a safe distance from your tent or anything that can burn.
- Use rocks to create a fire ring in the center of a large cleared area.
- Use the Drown-Stir-Drown-Feel method to put out your campfire safely.

#### **Boating & Swimming:**

- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket when boating. Choose a life jacket that is right for your child's weight and water activity.
- Learn about boating safety, and get your WA Boating Safety Certification.
- Young kids are at a higher risk for hypothermia, so take extra precautions to keep them warm.
- Watch kids when they are in or around water. Keep young children and weak swimmers within arm's reach of an adult. Make sure more experienced swimmers are with a partner every time.
- Avoid distractions when your child is in or around water. Drowning is often silent and can occur in less than

five minutes, so it is important to give your child all of your attention.



### HOW DO WE FUND EMERGENCY SERVICES?

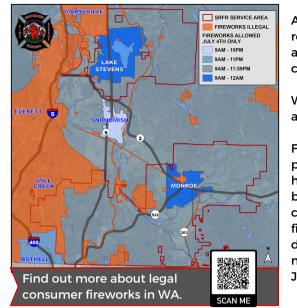
SRFR funds daily operations with a fire levy and a levy for emergency medical services paid through property taxes. These levy rates are capped at a total of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (\$1.50 for fire and \$0.50 for EMS). Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue including any voter-approved increase. That's why we regularly ask voters for a "levy lid lift" to restore funding for emergency services as call volumes and costs increase.

#### **Fire Levy Lid Lift Planned for November**

Our fire levy has fallen from \$1.50 to \$1.14 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2023. SRFR is asking voters for a levy lid lift on the November 7, 2023 general election ballot to return the fire levy rate to the original amount. Revenue will be used to maintain staffing levels, rebuild Station 81 (Lake Stevens), and better locate Station 32 (Monroe) to improve response times. These capital projects would be funded out of the operations levy instead of voted bonds, which cost taxpayers more in interest payments.

More information is available at www.SRFR.org. Chief Kevin O'Brien also welcomes your questions at 360.794.7666 or kevin.obrien@SRFR.org.

## **4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS - DISCHARGE AREAS**



\*In the state of Washington, fireworks are subject to state laws and local county or city laws.

## HAVE A SAFE SUMMER ON THE WATER: SRFR LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

As we approach the summer months, many of us are planning trips that will allow us to enjoy all of the open water the Pacific Northwest has to offer. Be sure that as you plan for your trip, you don't forget one of the most important pieces of gear...your life jacket! When swimming, boating, or paddling on open water, it is important to always wear a life jacket. Safe Kids Snohomish County says, "It's not enough to simply wear a life jacket. It must fit correctly in order to be effective."

#### To be sure your life jacket fits, you must:

- 1. Select the right jacket based on weight. Wearing a jacket that is too big can be dangerous.
- 2. Be sure the life jacket fits snug around the chest and does not ride up on your body in the water
- 3. Fasten all buckles. Pull straps tight, not twisted. Avoid gaps or overlapping where the two sides come together on the front of the jacket. Smaller jackets will also have a strap between the legs for added protection.

#### Need to borrow a life jacket? FREE day-use life jackets are available at the following life jacket loaner cabinets within our fire district:

#### **Loaner Life Jacket Closets**

- Lake Tye Park: 14964 Fryelands Boulevard, Monroe, WA
- Davies Beach: 10508 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens, WA
- Lake Stevens City Boat Launch: 12200 17th Place NE, Lake Stevens, WA

#### Loaner Life Jacket Closet and Life Jacket Fitting

- Location: Station 31, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, 163 Village Court, Monroe, WA
- Hours:
  - Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00, Saturday-Sunday\* 9:00-5:00 (\*On weekends, firefighters will be the only ones at the station, so their availability may be call dependent.)
- Types:
  - We have both Type II and Type III life jackets available and have an assortment of sizes ranging from Infant, Child, Youth, and Adult. All our life jackets are Coast Guard certified.
- Borrowing Procedure:
  - Visit Station 31.
  - Ring the doorbell if the door is shut.
  - Staff will weigh you and fit the life jacket.
  - Staff will record your name, phone number, and the day you plan to return the life jacket.
  - When returning the life jacket, ring the doorbell, and give the borrowed life jacket to a staff member.

As 4th of July celebrations approach, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue wants to remind citizens of the laws and regulations within our district. The discharge areas in parts of unincorporated Snohomish County are the same as last year. You can use our interactive map to see the banned areas by using the QR code below.

Within the cities of Monroe and Lake Stevens, the discharge of fireworks is allowed only on July 4th from 9 A.M. until midnight.

For the safest viewing of fireworks, Snohomish Regional recommends attending a public fireworks show. If your family wants to enjoy a small fireworks display at home, Snohomish Regional recommends using the types of fireworks you can buy at a local fireworks stand, and we advise that ignition should only be conducted by adults wearing protective eyewear. Additionally, never pick up a firework "dud", and remember to be a good neighbor. Clean up your fireworks debris after your celebration, and be aware of veterans and pets in your neighborhood that may be affected by loud noises. Have a safe and happy 4th of July celebration!

> Learn more about the ban area as well as other local regulations: www.SRFR.org.









Find out more about our life jacket program by using the QR code:

