

SNOWBOWISH REGIONAL FIRE &amp; 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.



Scan for more prevention tips!

## HOW DO WE FUND EMERGENCY SERVICES?

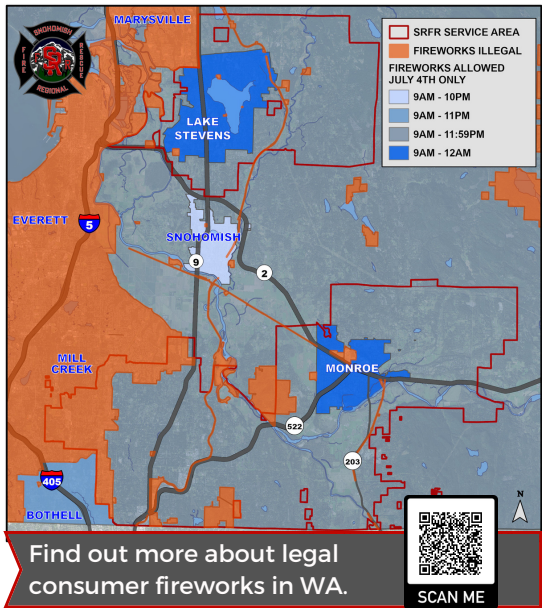
SRFR funds daily operations with a fire levy and a levy for emergency medical services paid through property taxes. These levy rates are capped at a total of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (\$1.50 for fire and \$0.50 for EMS). Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district 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](http://www.SRFR.org). Chief Kevin O’Brien also welcomes your questions at 360.794.7666 or [kevin.obrien@SRFR.org](mailto: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.

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](http://www.SRFR.org).



## 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.

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

