

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## PROMOTIONS:



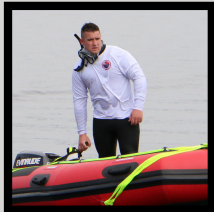
Congratulations to newly promoted **Lead Fire Service Mechanic Shawn Seltz!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Fire Inspector Dave LeDuc!**



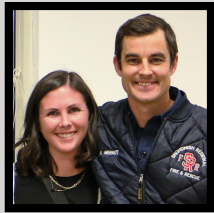
Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant Jacob Winter!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant Joe Virnig!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant Nate Dillon!**



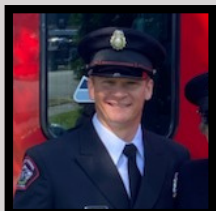
Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant Neil Merritt!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant David Pick!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Lieutenant Matt James!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Ben Francis!**



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Erik Emerson!**



## PREVENTION CORNER: DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER

As residents of western Washington, we are no strangers to the many forms of rain. In the Pacific Northwest, the winter months are often filled with more rainy days than snowy ones. Even though rain is more familiar than snow or ice, it requires just as much caution when we are out on the road. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), "wet pavement contributes to nearly 1.2 million traffic crashes each year." Surprisingly, rain is the deadliest weather related road hazard in the U.S. and surpasses snow, ice, and sleet by almost 40%. Because of this, it is important to practice safe driving in winter weather conditions whether that be rain, snow, or ice.

**Washington State Department of Transportation** provides the following tips to remember the next time you're caught driving in the rain, snow, or ice.

### Wet Weather Driving Tips

- Slow down.
- Leave extra room between cars.
- Allow extra time to reach destinations.
- Turn on headlights.
- Watch for water pooling on the roadway.
- Turn off cruise control.

### Flooding: Turn Around. Don't Drown.

- Obey detour and closure signs. Never drive around a barricade.
- Don't drive or walk through standing water if you can't tell the depth.
- Six inches of water is enough to knock a person down and will stall most vehicles.
- One foot of water can make you lose control of your vehicle.
- Two feet of water can sweep a vehicle away, even SUVs and trucks.

### Hydroplaning Recovery & Driving on Ice

- Don't panic.
- Avoid hard braking and quick turns.
- Ease off the gas, and lightly pump brakes (use consistent pressure w/ ABS).

### Frost or Icy Roads

- Check pass conditions online before heading out or planning trips.
- Check to see if you have traction tires & chains.
- Four-wheel and all-wheel vehicles do not stop or steer better on ice.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, offramps, bridges, or shady spots.



Learn more at: [www.WSDOT.com](http://www.WSDOT.com)

## NEW HIRE:



Congratulations to newly promoted **Driver Operator Jeff Walker!**



Join us in welcoming our new **Fire Service Apprentice Mechanic Cameron Main!**



**ANNUAL COUNTRYWIDE SCOUT DAY at the Fire Station**

**South County Fire**  
JANUARY 13TH  
11am-1pm  
Mariner Fire Station 11

**Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue**  
MARCH 9TH  
11am-1pm  
Clearview Fire Station 71

**Please register for this event: [bit.ly/SnoCoScoutDay](https://bit.ly/SnoCoScoutDay)**  
*All scout groups and community members welcome!*

**KIDS CORNER**

**TIPS TO KEEP SAFE WHILE PLAYING IN THE COLD**

- ❄️ Wear warm clothing, and come indoors periodically to prevent hypothermia or frostbite.
- ❄️ Make sure to use the proper gear, like helmets, when you are skiing, snowboarding or playing ice hockey.
- ❄️ Even though it's cold outside, it's important to use sunscreen and stay hydrated. Compared to adults, children have higher risk of dehydration.

**CONNECT WITH US:** @SnoRegionalFire

Customer Postal ECRWSS

360.794.7666

[www.SRRF.org](http://www.SRRF.org)

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**SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE**  
163 Village Court  
Monroe WA 98272

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,

The start of a new year always inspires one to reflect on the year prior and look toward the year ahead. It is because of your support that the upcoming year is looking bright here at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR). From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the community for your support of our fire levy lid lift in the November general election. Because of you, we will be able to hire emergency and support personnel and make station renovations to maintain and improve the quality and level of emergency service our community requires.

We're grateful for your partnership in helping us achieve our mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people. Your support has also allowed us to become the first fire agency in Snohomish County to achieve international accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. 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 accomplish our mission and to our accountability for spending your hard-earned tax dollars wisely. As an accredited agency, we are committed to continuous improvement this coming year and beyond as we work to meet the standards and goals set by the accreditation process. These goals demonstrate our commitment to providing you with the best service possible.

We have big plans in the coming year, and thanks to your support we will begin making headway on our goals. We plan to continue hiring new firefighters and emergency personnel to replace those who have retired or transferred to provide the level of service our community requires. In 2024, we are planning to begin the design and permitting process for an extensive remodel or rebuild of Station 81 in downtown Lake Stevens. We hope to break ground in 2025. We are also looking to purchase property to relocate Station 32 to better serve residents in the Chain Lake and North Monroe areas. We'll continue to report back to you as we make progress on these improvements.

I will never stop singing the praises of the team we have here at SRFR. As your Fire Chief, I want you to know how hard everyone works - behind the scenes or on the scene of an emergency - to care for you, your family and loved ones. Thank you for partnering with us to save lives, protect property, safeguard the environment, and take care of people. Wishing you a happy and healthy upcoming year.

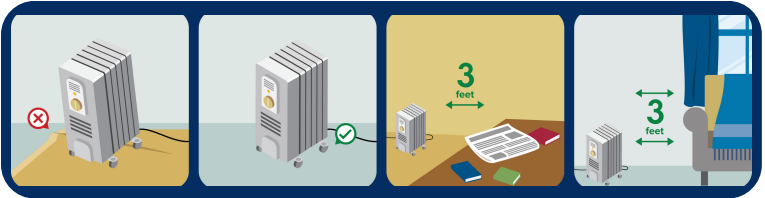
Take Care & Stay Safe,  
Kevin O'Brien  
Your Fire Chief



## HAVE A SAFE, WARM WINTER

Heating Safety

During the winter months, most homes need a little extra help when it comes to heating. Many use fireplaces or space heaters to warm their homes. Taking precautions when using these heat sources can significantly decrease the risk of a preventable house fire. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue urges residents to keep safe while they keep warm. The following tips are some safety precautions to help you and your loved ones stay warm in the safest way possible.



- Change furnace filters to keep equipment running efficiently and safely. Contact the gas company or a heating contractor if you suspect that your furnace is not functioning properly.
- Place all space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, walls, curtains, or anything that burns. Make sure to turn them off when you leave home or go to bed.
- Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms, where the small room size poses a risk of rapid carbon monoxide build-up.
- Have your chimneys inspected and cleaned by a professional before each heating season, and have them cleaned regularly.
- Store paper, kindling, and other flammable material at least three feet from the fireplace.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container. Cardboard boxes, paper bags, and plastic containers quickly catch fire. Even apparently cool ashes may contain enough heat to ignite these containers.
- Never burn trash, paper, or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause a combustible build-up on the lining of your fireplace that may eventually catch fire, possibly damaging the chimney and threatening your home.
- Remember, never use a charcoal-burning barbecue or heater indoors! When burned indoors, charcoal produces deadly amounts of carbon monoxide gas that is odorless, tasteless, and invisible. Charcoal-burning devices are for outdoor use only!

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.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Resolve to be ready this New Year.

In our continued efforts to create a safer community, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue offers a variety of community education and prevention programs to the communities we serve. We believe in preventing injuries and emergencies before they even happen. Learn more by using the QR codes or by visiting our website at [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org).



### School Visits

Each school year, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue partners with our local schools, from preschool to high school, to deliver age-specific fire and life safety lessons to students. Our lessons are fun and engaging, and aligned with the fire safety curriculum designed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). If you would like us to visit a private school or homeschool group, please go to our website, [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org), and submit a request.



### Home Education Lessons

For those that prefer to learn at home, we have 17 different video lessons that are fun for the whole family.

#### VIDEOS INCORPORATE:

- State Learning Standards:
  - Next Generation Science Standards
  - Common Core State Standards
  - Washington State Teaching Standards
- Science, Math, Music, & Social Studies Concepts
- Worksheets & Interactive Experiments & Activities

#### VIDEOS HIGHLIGHT:

- Safety Messages
- Firefighter Careers, Special Teams, & Skills



### Adult & Senior Safety Classes

We want to make sure you feel prepared for any emergency or disaster that may come your way. Because of this, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue offers virtual adult and senior safety classes. Our online 2024 class schedule is as follows. Use the QR Code, or visit [www.SRFR.org](http://www.SRFR.org) to sign up for a class! If you are wanting to schedule an in-person class for you and your group, email [CommunityRelations@SRFR.org](mailto:CommunityRelations@SRFR.org).

#### Disaster Preparedness

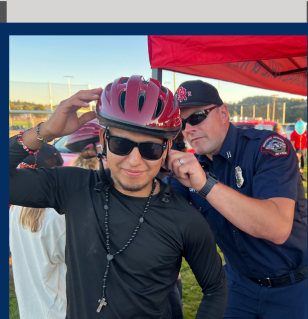
- January 10
- April 10
- September 11

#### Aging in Place

- February 14
- March 8
- November 13

#### Home Fire Safety

- March 13
- October 9
- December 11



### Smoke Alarms



We want to make sure your home is equipped with working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives! Be sure to test your alarms regularly. Alarms that are more than 10 years old should be replaced. Alarms should be placed in every bedroom, outside of every bedroom, and on every level of the residence. If you are needing your whole home outfitted with new alarms, use the QR code above to schedule a free fire safety visit from the Red Cross.



### Bike Helmets

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue provides FREE bike and multisport helmets throughout the year at various events throughout our district. Follow our social media pages for updates about the next bike helmet event near you! Need a bike helmet but cannot afford one? Contact us at [CommunityRelations@SRFR.org](mailto:CommunityRelations@SRFR.org), and we may be able to help. Please note that supplies are limited.



### Life Jackets



Need to borrow a life jacket? Free loaner life jackets are available at **Station 31, 163 Village Court, Monroe, WA 98272**. Come to the fire station with the person who needs the life jacket. There, you can get fitted, borrow the jacket, and return it when you are done. Remember, when having fun out on the water, everyone should wear a properly fitted life jacket.



### 2024 Community Events

Save the date for some of our upcoming 2024 events!

- **March 9th:** Scout Open House, Station 71, Clearview
- **May 18th:** Life Jacket Giveaway, Lake Stevens
- **July 9th:** SRFR Water Safety Camp, Lake Tye
- **July 17th:** SRFR Water Safety Camp, Lundeen Park
- **August 6th:** National Night Out, Multiple Locations
- **October 12th:** Fire Prevention Week Open House, Station 31, Monroe