



For Immediate Release

Date: June 12, 2021  
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### First Responders receive VFW Public Servant Awards

[Monroe, WA] – Last Thursday evening, three firefighters from Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue were recognized by the Monroe VFW Post 7511 and received awards for Public Servants of the Year.

Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Jacobs and firefighter Colt Mercer were awarded the Post’s Firefighters Public Servant Award for their work on April 19, 2020 when they rescued a young child who was hiding from responders in a house fire. The full account of the rescue is detailed below.

Firefighter/Paramedic David Hanson was awarded the VFW’s EMT of the Year for the Department of Washington for his heroic work on October 1, 2020. While off duty, Hanson rescued two people who were trapped in a burning car after a motor vehicle collision. The full account of the rescue is detailed below.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is proud of our firefighters and their dedication and commitment to our mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment and taking care of people.



*Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Jacobs.*



*Firefighter Colt Mercer.*



*Firefighter/Paramedic David Hanson.*

On April 19, 2020 Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a residential house fire at the 16500 block of 154th Street SE in Monroe. A neighbor had called 911 after seeing smoke coming from the home.

Monroe Police Department Officers arrived on scene first and were told that there was one child still in the house. The Officers quickly entered the home and closed the door to the bedroom where the fire was located then exited the home. Closing the bedroom door helped slow the spread of the fire. The Officers did not locate the child in that short time.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue’s Engine 31 crew arrived on scene and entered the home with a hose line to start controlling the fire and conduct a search. Medic 31 which consisted of Firefighter/Paramedic



Travis Jacobs and Firefighter Colt Mercer arrived on scene and assisted with searching. Medic 31 searched an adjacent bedroom and found the child in a closed toy trunk at the end of the bed. They quickly grabbed her and brought her outside the home to safety. Paramedics evaluated the child and found she did not sustain any injuries. It was due to their intuition to continue to look where a scared child may be that helped them find her before the fire spread further.

Due to the quick thinking of the Police Officers by closing the bedroom door, Jacobs and Mercer, along with additional firefighters, were able to continue searching for the child, contain the fire to the adjacent bedroom, and extinguish the flames.

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On October 1, 2020 Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue was dispatched with Sky Valley Fire units to an Motor Vehicle Collision with Extrication in Gold Bar with reports of a truck on its side, on fire with two potential seriously-injured and entrapped passengers. Two Air Lift Northwest helicopters were requested based on mechanism of injury and potential for burns.

Emergency intervention in this event started with firefighter/paramedic David Hanson as a Good Samaritan/Duty to Act: Hanson was off duty and rolled up on the collision while traveling home and prior to Fire/EMS arrival. He observed the truck down a hillside and quickly went into action. The vehicle was on its side and two people were trapped and entangled inside the truck that was on fire. He found a metal concrete spike near the truck and proceeded to clear a safer opening in the front windshield for patient extrication as other bystanders were using fire extinguishers to hold back the fire.

Hanson, along with the help of other bystanders, were able to assist both victims out of the vehicle through the front windshield. One victim's seatbelt had to be cut. He then performed triage, patient stabilization, and assisted with ALS treatment upon arrival of EMS units. Once his patient treatment was concluded, and because of limited Sky Valley Fire personnel, Hanson assisted as the engineer on the fire truck pump panel of E53 so their personnel could extinguish the well-involved vehicle fire.

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*At the beginning of 2020, Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 merged agencies and formed Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. The district serves over 175,000 people over 140 square miles and is dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people in a fiscally responsible manner. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, and Monroe along with the unincorporated areas surrounding these communities. In 2020, emergency personnel responded to more than 16,000 emergency calls. Through community support, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has built an advanced emergency response system in Snohomish County with highly trained personnel and progressive rescue programs. We appreciate your support and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.*

