



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As approved by the Lake Stevens voters, at the beginning of 2020, Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 merged agencies. From the beginning of merger discussions, the idea of renaming the fire district to represent the communities served by the newly merged agencies has been at the forefront of many meetings. Bonding to the Snohomish County area and highlighting regional partnerships has been a long-standing value of both districts. I am proud to announce that we have officially changed our name to **Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR)**. Our name may have changed, but our commitment to providing the highest level of service to our communities has not.



The district serves approximately 162,000 residents over 140 square miles and is dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people. The merger between the districts has already improved service. Most notably in firefighter training, efficiencies in administrative services, and importantly, an increase in the fire district's ability to respond to large-scale emergencies like COVID-19.

As we continue to grow together as one team, we are working to update key guiding documents for the district. Over the last few months, SRFR has had teams meeting virtually to develop our Strategic Plan, Standards of Cover, and Capital Facilities Plan. These plans guide the fire district by outlining our mission and values, along with assessing the service we provide to our communities with the focus of continuous improvement. The Capital Facilities Plan assists the district in long-term planning of maintenance and repairs of our fire stations.

It is through community support that we have been able to build an advanced emergency response system in Snohomish County with highly trained personnel and progressive rescue programs. All of us at Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue are grateful to have the opportunity to serve our amazing cities and communities. From Monroe to Mill Creek, and Lake Stevens to Maltby, we are one unified team always ready to answer your call for help.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Fall.

Respectfully,

Kevin O'Brien
Your Fire Chief



Our name has changed!

Although our name has changed to **Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue**, our dedication to providing you the highest level of service has stayed the same. We are still your neighborhood fire station.

PREVENTION CORNER

Fireplace Safety – Make it a Priority

As we start to experience shorter days and temperatures dropping outside, residents may start firing up their wood and pellet stoves to keep the cold at bay. Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the winter months. According to the National Fire Incident Reporting System, over the last five years there have been nearly 600 reported chimney fires in Washington State.

As stated in a recent release from the Washington Fire Marshal's Office, "Chimney fires commonly occur due to buildup of creosote, which is a flammable byproduct of burning uncured wood that adheres to the sides of chimney flues. Additionally, chimney flues may become obstructed over the summer months with animal entry, tree overgrowth, and/or damper malfunction."

Follow these safety tips to help keep your family safe this season:

- ◆ Have your chimney and stove inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall before lighting your first fire.
- ◆ Clean the inside of your stove periodically using a wire brush.
- ◆ Allow ashes to cool before placing them in a covered metal container. Keep that container at least 10 feet away from your home and other buildings.
- ◆ Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from the stove.
- ◆ Install and maintain carbon monoxide and smoke alarms throughout your home.

We hope you have a safe and warm winter!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Are You Ready? Make a Plan.

As we enter the Fall and Winter months, the likelihood of having a storm pass through our area is high. We can't stop these events from happening, but we can PREPARE for them.

Here are a few steps you can take today so you and your family are ready.



MAKE A KIT

At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:

- ◆ Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- ◆ Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- ◆ Extra batteries
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- ◆ Multi-purpose tool
- ◆ Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- ◆ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- ◆ Cell phone with charger
- ◆ Emergency contact information
- ◆ Extra cash
- ◆ Emergency blankets
- ◆ Map(s) of the area
- ◆ Medication and food for pets



MAKE A PLAN

Meet with your family to discuss how to prepare for emergencies.

Plan what to do if you are separated during an emergency.

Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or saved on their cell phones.



BE INFORMED

Visit www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov for a wealth of information regarding disaster hazards and preparedness steps for you and your family.

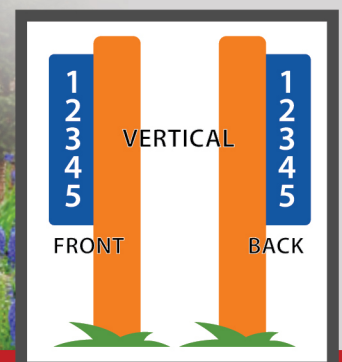
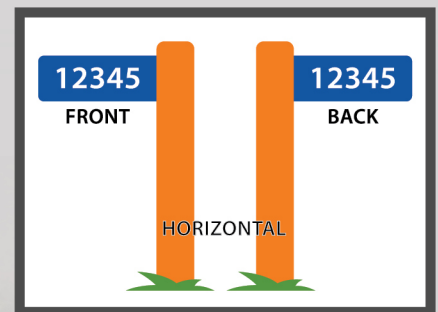
Can we find you in an emergency?

Most people never think about their house number – but they should. Would emergency responders be able to find you if you needed help? Victims of a heart attack, stroke, or other life threatening injuries need immediate care. In an emergency, every second counts, and there is no better way to help us out than to have your address clearly marked. If you can't see your address, then emergency responders can't either. Follow these tips to make sure your address is visible:

- ◆ Use numbers that are at least 3-inches for residential buildings
- ◆ Clear any trees, bushes, or vehicles that will block the view for responders
- ◆ Light the area where numbers will be placed or use a reflective address sign
- ◆ Place numbers at a high level

Don't wait for an emergency to find out that your address is not visible from the street.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has an address sign program for citizens to purchase personalized reflective address signs for your home to ensure that emergency responders can find you when you need us most. Visit our website to order your sign! www.snofire7.org





SUPPORTING EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING

Did you know?

Floods:

If you see a flood, never walk through it, and tell adults never to drive through it.

Winter Storms:

Remember to wear warm clothes when it is cold outside! Tell an adult if you feel cold or numb while playing outside

All Disasters:

Be sure to have a disaster preparedness kit ready in case of emergency. Find out what you need to build a kit at ready.gov.

Draw a line to match the name of the supply to its picture.

	First Aid Kit/ Medicine	
	Pet Supplies	
	Blankets	
	Food	
	Radio	
	Water	
	Flashlight & Batteries	

You can make your own emergency supply kit at home! Ask an adult to help you. Having a kit nearby can help you stay safe in many different kinds of emergencies.

Can you find the emergency supplies hidden in this picture?

Hey Pedro, let me show you what items we need for the storm!

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Food
- Bottle
- Pet Supplies
- Radio
- Diapers
- Water
- Blanket

Here in the Pacific Northwest, for many, the week of Labor Day signals the start of a new school year. For teachers, students, and parents the onset of a new school year often elicits the feeling of excitement in response to the new routines to be established, new learning to occur, and new opportunities for growth. In many ways, this year is no different. The feelings are much the same, but the way that we are experiencing the start of the new school year is different than any other.

At Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue, the onset of Fall often signals a time when we normally gear up for Fire Prevention Week, and we look forward to our school visits in our kindergarten, second, and fourth grade classrooms. This year looks a little different, but our focus remains the same. We want to support our parents and teachers, and bring valuable safety messages to the children, teens, adults, and families within our district. This Fall, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue offered its first Instructor Workshop and Webinar, in which the Public Education Team highlighted and explained our FREE, web-based, Home Safety Education Curriculum that features the video lessons we developed last spring. The lessons allow us to interact with the families we serve in a positive and productive way. All of the lessons have been created using a three pronged approach. Each lesson meets grade level teaching standards, delivers a safety message, and highlights the diverse roles our firefighters and team members play on a day-to-day basis.

Knowing that many school districts would start the year with distance learning, we wanted to create materials and lessons that could be used in this format. Over the summer, the Public Education Team developed lesson materials to accompany each video. These materials include: warm-up and closure activities, worksheets, enrichment materials, and instructor companions. All materials are formatted so that they are downloadable PDFs that can be utilized using various teaching platforms. We have also worked to reconfigure our Home Education webpage so the content is easily accessible to our parents, students, and teachers.

Later this Fall and early next Spring, the Public Education Team will release new lessons to add to the list of 13 lessons that are already available. We look forward to the new school year with excitement and anticipation and embrace all the change as a challenge to grow and ultimately to LEARN.



All lessons and homework can be viewed on our website at: <http://www.snofire7.org/education>



163 Village Court
Monroe WA 98272

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CONNECT WITH US:     @SnoRegionalFire  360.794.7666 or 425.486.1217  www.snofire7.org

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to **Lieutenant/Paramedic Rick Peters** on his retirement after 31 years in the Fire Service.



Congratulations to **Driver Operator/Paramedic Kurt Schneider** on his retirement after 28 years in Fire and EMS.



Congratulations to **Lieutenant/Paramedic Jeff Chittenden** on his retirement after 31 years of service at Fire District 7.