



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Recruiting More Emergency Personnel
Meet Firefighter/EMT Jessica Hanna



Hanna trekked to the base camp of Mount Everest in 2016.

Monroe, Wash. – Approximately 40 more firefighters are wanted for residents and businesses served by Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) in Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. The agency is hiring to add emergency personnel and replace those lost due to retirements, promotions and attrition.

Firefighter Jessica Hanna is a great example of the opportunities a career in emergency services can provide. Hanna is currently training for her paramedic certification from the University of Washington/ Harborview Medical Center. Hanna has been with SRFR for seven years and the agency is paying her salary and tuition while she secures this advanced degree.



Firefighter Jessica Hanna prepares to enter house during a fire call.

“The opportunities in emergency services are endless,” said Firefighter Jessica Hanna. “Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue will train you in structural firefighting at the academy, wildland firefighting, as a rescue swimmer, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, paramedic school – you name it. It’s an amazing organization that allows you to learn and grow.”

Hanna says that she wanted to be a firefighter since kindergarten. Local firefighters in her home town of North Bend came to her school with a trailer designed to teach children how to escape a fire. When it was her turn, she was fascinated with the “fake” smoke and stayed inside watching it until one of the firefighters came to find her.

As a teenager, she thought sirens and alarms sounded like music, and was a fan of the popular television series “Rescue 911.” In 2007, Hanna graduated with a degree in Psychology from Whitworth College. She simultaneously earned her Emergency Medical Technician certification, and joined Eastside Fire and Rescue based out of Issaquah, Wash. as a volunteer firefighter.

Hanna has a passion for wildland firefighting, and credits SRFR with providing her with an opportunity to develop these skills. She has traveled extensively throughout Washington and California during wildland fire season to help communities facing the worst days and weeks of their lives.



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE



Jessica Hanna is an instructor at the Fire Academy in North Bend, Wash.

She also is an instructor at the Everett Community College's Fire Science program, the Fire Academy in North Bend, Wash., and through Camp Blaze, an organization that recruits women into emergency services. Participants range in age from 14-18 and spend 10 days learning the fundamentals of firefighting. The next camp will be held July 30-August 6, 2022. Interested parties can fill out an application at www.campblazefirecamp.org.



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Jessica Hanna hiking with her dog Siren.

Hanna is an avid hiker and mountaineer, scaling Mount Rainier and trekking to the base camp of Mount Everest in Nepal. This physical past-time has served her well. For example, she was called out to rescue a hiker who had fallen into a crevasse off Rattlesnake Ledge located south of North Bend, Washington in 2013. Her hiking abilities, and work with a search and rescue team saved a life and was a significant moment for her personally.

“The culture of the fire service is changing. Women are proving their physical abilities through programs like Crossfit and weight training,” said Hanna. “It’s also important to have women responding to calls because we can relate better to female patients in difficult situations.”

“I’m grateful for SRFR and the firefighters I serve with. My colleagues have supported me every step of the way, and SRFR has made possible everything I want to do professionally,” said Hanna. “I look forward to returning in July as a firefighter/paramedic and putting these skills to use saving lives.”

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Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves 180,655 residents in the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. It also provides emergency services to the city of Mill Creek on a contract basis through 2022. SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 emergency calls a year with highly-trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs. More information about SRFR can be found at www.srfr.org.