

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to newly promoted **Battalion Chief Mike Eagle!**

NEW HIRE:



Congratulations to newly re-hired **Shop Mechanic Daniel Kindig!** We gladly welcome him back to the team!

RETIREMENTS:



Congratulations to **Assistant Chief Larry Huff** on his retirement after 28 years in the fire service! Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue thanks him for his many years of leadership and service to the district and the community.



Congratulations to **Battalion Chief Mark Toycen** on his retirement after 36 years in the fire service! Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue thanks him for his many years of leadership!



Congratulations to **Captain Troy Smith** on his retirement after 35 years in the fire service! Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue thanks him for the many years he has spent serving our communities!



Congratulations to **Mechanic Brad McLenaghan** on his retirement after 23 years with SRFR. Thank you for the many years spent working in the apparatus maintenance shop serving our crews and communities!

FIREHOUSE FEATURE

SRFR WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

An estimated 128,000 people in Snohomish County have property valued at more than \$9.7 billion in wildland urban interfaces. A wildland urban interface is a zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where buildings and human development meet with wildland fuels like brush and trees.

Understanding how interface fires are influenced by the varying elements is important. This year, we have had a very mild and wet spring which has helped vegetation grow vigorously. Past mild and wet springs have delayed the fire season especially within wildland urban interfaces. If this summer brings long periods of excessive heat, the lush vegetation that was aided by a cooler and wet spring will add to fire loads in the late summer. That is why it is important to maintain a safe green zone between your structures and wildlands.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue crews train regularly and stay certified to combat wildland urban interface fires. SRFR currently has around 25 firefighters on the Wildland Team and houses 4 brush units strategically placed throughout the district. These units are specially designed to combat wildland fires. They are on a regular pick-up frame, complete with a flat-bed and the ability to connect to a tender or fire hydrant for water deployment. Lieutenant Jeff Dickinson, a lead on the Wildland Team, teaches probationary firefighters the Basic Wildland Firefighter class where they learn wildland firefighting techniques and fire shelter deployment. Firefighters also obtain their Red Card through this initial training. Opportunities like this foster team building and allow crews to hone skills in a more controlled environment so when they are called to an actual event, they are ready.

Annually, the Wildland Team participates in a wildland refresher and reviews the year's current forecast for wildland fires in the region. This year, the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center forecasts the fire conditions in eastern and central Washington to be at elevated levels this August.

It is important to know the risks and your proximity to wildland urban interface, and it is helpful to understand what you can do to minimize these risks. For more information go to NFPA.org and search for Firewise.



Learn more by going to [NFPA's Firewise Map](http://NFPA.org)



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

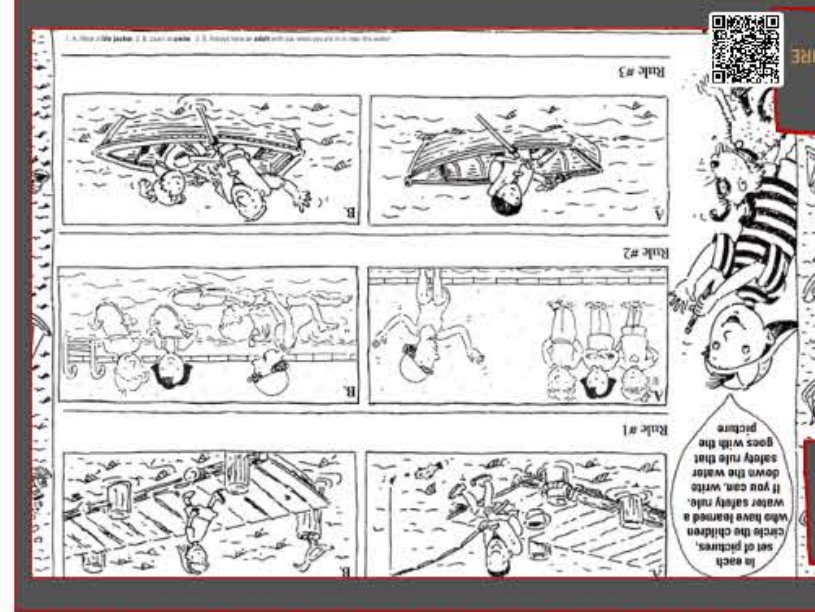


IMAGE COURTESY OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. FIND THE ENTIRE ACTIVITY BOOK HERE.

Fun for the whole family! CHECK OUT OUR HOME EDUCATION LESSONS!

- ★ Don't Just Pack It, Wear Your Jacket.
- ★ Reach or Throw, Don't Go.
- ★ Think So You Don't Sink.
- ★ Look Before You Leap.
- ★ Swim as a Pair Near a Lifeguard's Chair.

WATER SAFETY TIPS!



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,
As we get ready to enjoy another PNW Summer, I want you to know that we are grateful to serve the 180,655 residents that live within our district. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue proudly provides emergency services to the residents of Lake Stevens, Monroe, Mill Creek, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. We would not be able to provide quality service without your support.

It is this support that has allowed us to hire more personnel so that we can better serve you. This spring, we started the hiring process for more firefighters and support staff to fill vacancies due to retirements and attrition.

Your support also ensures that our firefighters are some of the best trained in the state. This spring, SRFR firefighters hosted a water rescue academy, participated in a rescue swimmer refresher, and completed wildland fire training.

SRFR's contract with the city of Mill Creek will end December 31, 2022. This applies to those homes and businesses within the Mill Creek city limits. Residences and businesses outside of city limits that have a Mill Creek address will still be serviced by SRFR. We are very thankful for the many years that we have served Mill Creek and would like residents to rest assured that during the transition, there will be no interruptions to the quality or level of service you receive.

SRFR is an exceptional organization that provides the highest level of care for residents. Our cardiac save rate is twice the national average. We are also involved in our communities with school visits, code enforcement, business inspections, and public events. We will be hosting two water safety camps for children this summer. Water safety is something I am passionate about, and I encourage everyone to never swim alone, always wear a life jacket, and check your local weather and water conditions before enjoying a day out on the water!

All that we do is possible because of your personal and financial support - and we are grateful. Thank you again, and please reach out if we can be of service.

Respectfully,
Kevin K. O'Brien
Your Fire Chief



WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION



According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC), the Northwest 2021 Fire Year surpassed historical averages for duration and fire activity. With a summer that is predicted to have more record breaking heat, it is important to take steps to understand how wildfires can affect us in Snohomish County, and it is important to learn what we can do to keep our homes and properties safe in the event of a wildfire.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states that, "research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind and can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris, and other objects. There are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments."

The NFPA recommends taking the following steps to make your home safer from embers and radiant heat in the event of a wildfire:

- Action Items to Improve Your Home's Survivability:**
- **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
 - **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
 - **COVER** exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
 - **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
 - **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

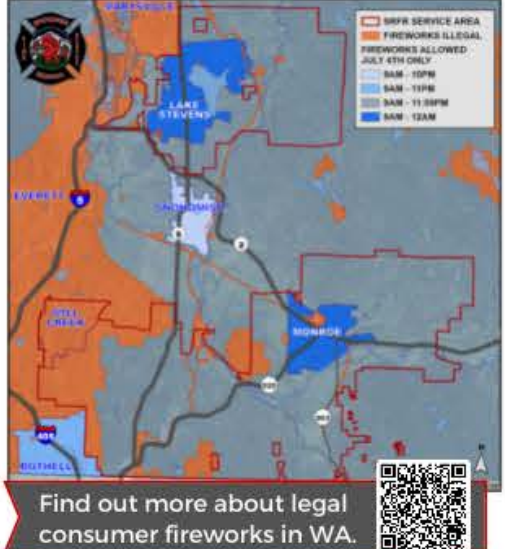
- Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home**
- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
 - **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
 - **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
 - **MOVE** construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
 - **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.



For more prevention tips, visit Firewise.org



4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS - DISCHARGE AREAS



Find out more about legal consumer fireworks in WA.

*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.

Residents living in the city of Mill Creek are not able to purchase, possess, or discharge fireworks.

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 be a good neighbor by cleaning up your fireworks debris after your celebration. Have a safe 4th of July celebration!

Learn more about the ban area as well as other local regulations: 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 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. 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 and 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, 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: