



Chief's Report 12.17.20

COVID-19

Collaborative monitoring, protective measures, and education are a top priority to ensure the safety and health of our responders and communities served.

- Staff is working with the DOH, COVID counter measures group, and ESF4 to become one of 3 fire department vaccination sites in the county. Other Departments include Marysville and South County Fire.
- DOH Vaccine Administration Site Application has been completed and submitted.
- Ultra-Cold Mobile Freezer for SRFR has been ordered with an anticipated delivery date in January. They will be capable of maintaining temperatures to store both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine.
- County MPD is finalizing county "Just in Time Training" and the procedure allowing Paramedics and EMT's to administer the vaccine.

Career Firefighters

Following an extensive evaluation process, SRFR has given conditional offers of employment to five outstanding candidates. The candidates are currently undergoing background checks and medical assessments. The planned start date for the recruit firefighters is 1/16/21. Thank you to our awesome Human Resource team and all who assisted in the process.

Strategic Planning

Following feedback from all SRFR team members and the public, the Strategic Planning Workgroup have developed a draft Mission, Vision, and Guiding Values. The Workgroup will resume meeting in January and develop supporting goals and objectives.

Draft Mission Statement: *Save lives, protect property, safeguard the environment, and take care of people.*

Draft Vision Statement: *We will be a proactive regional emergency services leader by partnering to provide safe communities for people to live, work and explore.*

Draft Guiding Values:

Teamwork, Respect, Accountability, Service, Integrity

Health & Safety

- DC Messer will be transitioning Health & Safety responsibilities to DC Dorsey during the month of December. Official handoff date January 1, 2021.

Accreditation

- The Core Team has completed critical tasking for all categories and classifications of risk. The team matched these up with dispatch codes and incident types for quick reference and future

proposed response changes. An operations team has been established to validate new critical tasking.

- Staff is planning a Board presentation regarding the Accreditation Process in Q1.

Policy & Procedure

- Lexipol and PowerDMS are ready for the standards committee. We are looking to kick off with training in January and begin policy work soon after. The goal is to update and approve all district policies and procedures by 12/31/21.

Chaplain Program

- Staff are working to standardize the Chaplain Program and to keep them safe and informed during COVID. We will be working to resume their meetings virtually at the start of the New Year.
- A Memo will soon go out to our members detailing the services our chaplain's offer.

Training

- Continued Improvement: In an effort to improve our current probationary process, the Training Division has been interviewing the firefighters that graduated from 2019-3 SCFTA. In addition, they will interview their station officers, crews, and BC's and will be sending out surveys to firefighters that have completed the probationary program in the last 2 years.
- December 7th was the monthly CAC meeting for the Training Consortium. Topics were the upcoming recruit academies. Currently SRFR has requested 10 recruit and 2 CO spots.
- Hazmat IC training has been delivered.
- The Training Division is assisted Dist. 4 with their IMS scenario for an upcoming Lieutenant's test.

Operations

- The Operations meetings for the month of December will be held on the 14th through 17th. The agenda will consist of preparing the group for a "year in review" and what we did well this year with emphasis on what we can work on in 2021. We will also be rolling out PIO training.
- Annual performance evaluations will begin next week and will be completed by February of 2021. It is important that all of the great work that has been done during this challenging year is reflected in a review. This will also help to assist staff throughout all of the opportunities for promotional testing next year.

Technical Services

- Domain/Server/Email Project: Staff are continuing to work with IS Outsource on the plan to transition the domain over to the SRFR domain and merge the Sno 7 and LSF email exchange environments into a single hosted environment. The lack of full integration of our system is a daily hindrance. We have the full proposal pricing available now so we will look to move this forward as rapidly as we can.
- Cell Tower Lease at Station 73: Staff continue to work with Attorney Brian Snure on updating the cell tower lease with American Tower at Station 73.

- Radio Tower Lease at Station 71: Sno911 has asked for a minor amendment to the existing lease at Station 71. The changes are to note the agency name change from SERS to Sno911 Wireless as well as our name change to SRFR. They are also requesting permission to raise the tower an additional 20 feet to accommodate the new digital antenna's needed for coverage with our new digital trunked public safety radio system.
- Radio Tower Lease at Station 83: Staff continue to work with Sno911 on the proposed public safety radio tower in the back of Station 83 to cover the Machias Valley area on the new radio system. After meeting Motorola and Sno911 personnel on site, we have requested Motorola look into moving the location of the tower and equipment enclosure as far north and east as possible on the property to minimize interference with any building plans we may have in the future. While any tower on site will certainly limit our use of the area to some degree, the improvement in our public safety radio system performance and also potential cellular voice and data coverage improvements will be a valuable trade off.
- Locution Upgrade at Station 71: The upgrade of the Locution Station Alerting system at Station 71 is complete. The system now is a zoned system which allows us to customize the alerting in individual bunk rooms based on apparatus assignments for each of the dorm room occupants. With seven different units being dispatched out of that station, the previous configuration alerted in all bedrooms for any incident requesting any of the seven units. With the upgrade, only the crew assigned to the dispatched apparatus will be alerted reducing the impacts of sleep deprivation.
- Locution Upgrade at Stations 72, 76 and 77: With the upgrade of the Locution Station Alerting system at Station 71 complete, the cabinet that was removed from Station 71 will be used to upgrade one of the three remaining stations requiring upgrade. These stations all still use the VHF Nighthawk devices to activate lights and disconnect cooking appliances and this system is no longer supported and obsolete. The upgrade was included in the 2021 capital project expense and when completed will stabilize our station alerting.
- Apparatus Update: The new Rosenbauer Engine (Engine 83) is ready to go in service. We are waiting to have the unit labelled with SRFR logos and anticipate that will be complete no later than the end of the week of December 25th. The new Rosenbauer tender was brought back to the shop to complete the mounting of equipment and will also be labelled by the end of next week.
- The new Logistics Support Vehicle was finally delivered and has been outfitted by the shop. We are waiting on a couple more items to complete it, but the Logistics Division will be working on getting it set up for their use while we wait for the remaining items. This vehicle was also equipped with a snowplow which will be a huge benefit to our winter readiness operations. We are also working on the second snowplow anticipated for the 2021 budget and with the budgeted funds will also be able to outfit the Gator for smaller plowing operations.

Logistics

- Staff have completed the inventory and tracking of the District's assets for 2020.
- Brandon Vargas started his Commercial Driver's License Training on November 9th and will finish on December 10.
- The security system, fence and gate for the Logistics Facility have been installed.

- The Logistics Division continues to surplus items not being used by the District. We have generated more than \$102,894 dollars in surplus revenue in 2020.
- The Logistics Division recently has been working on ways to improve our different processes such as ground ladder tracking and fuel storage.
- NW Safety Clean is assisting the Logistics Division to improve our bunker gear cleaning.
- Staff are working to increase supplies to operate the District's 11 stations for 6-8 weeks in the event of a disaster.

Mill Creek

Formal notice has been sent to Mill Creek terminating the current Emergency Services Interlocal Agreement. The District endeavors to continue serving Mill Creek and is seeking an updated Agreement. The termination notice was issued consistent with the terms of the agreement to initiate new discussions about service.

2021 Budget

Following Board approval on 11/24, the 2021 levy certification, budget and resolutions were successfully received by Snohomish County.

Evergreen State Fair

Staff are working with Snohomish County to update the District's agreement to provide emergency services to the Evergreen State Fair.

2020 in Review

For many reasons, 2020 will go down in history as an extraordinary year. The COVID-19 Pandemic certainly tops the challenges for this historic year. Other challenges have included civil unrest and a contentious presidential election.

On a very positive note, January 1, 2020 marked the genesis of our newly formed fire district; Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (SRFR). We brought together the strength, talent, dedication, and professionalism of Snohomish County Fire District 7 and Lake Stevens Fire to become a new robust, emergency services organization. SRFR now serves over 162,000 people, over 140 square miles in the great communities of Monroe, Lake Stevens, Clearview, Maltby, Mill Creek, and other areas of unincorporated Snohomish County.

2020 has been a year of building our team and coming together as one stronger team. Our people have done an amazing job working together and we have improved service to the citizens we serve. 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. With a larger team, we have been able to specialize and dedicate staff to planning, organizing, and deploying our people and resources in a systematic and efficient manner.

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 and Rescue are grateful to have the opportunity to serve our amazing community.

I wish to close 2020 with a message of heartfelt gratitude for every member our incredible team. Their tireless work and dedication to serve at all levels and divisions in our organization makes us the strong team we are.

Looking Ahead to 2021

I believe 2021 will be a positive year as we aim a laser focus on our mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and caring for people. We will continue to partner with our neighbors to respond to emergencies, train firefighters, and maintain our steadfast efforts to combat COVID-19.

In 2021 we will shape the future with a new strategic plan, standards of cover, and capital facility plan. These guiding documents will help us set our course to the future and support our initial efforts to achieve accreditation.

We will honor the service of seven team members who are retiring; Lt. Mike Barry, Lt. Bryan Hunt, Lt. Jeff Larsen, D.O. Ed Mahrt, B.C. Derik Millich, B.C. Bill Wirtz, and A.C. Jamie Silva. We thank them for their many years of service to the community. Congratulations gentlemen!

I look forward to a great year ahead serving our community.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief