



Chief's Report September 9, 2021

Operations

The Operations Division continues to monitor incident volume out of the Evergreen Fairgrounds for the duration of the fair. This will allow the group to better determine any staffing needs moving forward in years to come.

Staff will meet on September 2 with Steve Knight to finish up the Standards of Cover. The group is looking forward to getting this document.

Staff are working on a contract with Spartan Racing to provide EMS for an event that is going to be in Monroe at the Nordstrom Farm the weekend of the 11 and 12 of September.

A big thank you to Kaitlin King for putting together school start-time information for our four school districts. Our members will be welcoming students in elementary schools back into the classrooms.

Emergency Medical Services

Staff are working to complete an Educational Agreement between Snohomish County EMS and Providence Hospital. This will allow SRFR Paramedics and EMT's to gain experience and complete skill requirements at Providence Hospital.

Staff and Legal Counsel are working to develop a paramedic preceptor agreement between SRFR and Snohomish County Fire District 17 (Granite Falls). This will allow SRFR paramedics to Precept the new Snohomish County District 17 Paramedics and assist them in getting experience and meeting the requirements from Snohomish County EMS.

Staff continue to monitor the effects of HB 1310 and are meeting with the Union weekly to discuss issues that arise.

The upcoming Quarterly Leadership meeting will be September 9, 9:00 a.m., at Station 31. Part of the meeting will be a Panel discussion on HB 1310. Speakers from the medical field and law enforcement will be present.

Training

Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue's six new recruits are in Week Seven of the pre-academy training program. The Training Division and Snohomish Fire District #4 have the recruits in a Red Card class this week. The recruits are scheduled to start the Academy 9/13/2021. Additionally, three probationary Lieutenants will be assigned to the academy starting September 7 to serve as Company Officers.

Staff continue to update the 2022 and long-range training plan. We are currently preparing the 2022 schedule and working with Snohomish Fire District 4.

Staff continue to work toward accreditation.

Human Resources and Training have started the process of Entry Level Firefighter testing. We are looking at the hiring and testing process for possible changes in the future

Human Resources and Training are preparing for the Driver Operator test scheduled for October.

Human Resources and Training are discussing future tests for the Part time firefighter, Hazmat Team, and Paramedic students.

Staff are conducting first round evaluations with 2021-1 probation class.

Staff conducted exit post-probation interviews with the class that just completed probation.

The Training Division and Human Resources are researching training on equal employments opportunities and productive work environment. We will bring in the IAFF, teamster, and the shop to discuss a plan to review and implement the training

Staff are changing the usernames in Target Solutions to reflect the new email addresses. This process is currently planned to go live September 1.

Health and Safety

Staff are working to finalize the annual physical schedule and coordinating physicals which start on 9/5. The medical truck and trailer will be delivered to Station 71 9/1/2021.

Staff are working on solutions and procedures surrounding the Governor's vaccine mandate.

Staff submitted a draft of the strategic plan to Chief O'Brien and D.C. Messer for the final processing for approval. Next, the draft plan will go to the Community Leader Advisory Committee (CLAC) for comment and approval. Pending approval by the CLAC, the plan will go to the Board of Fire Commissioners for formal approval and adoption.

Staff are continuing work with the Standards of Cover team to finalize details on the Standards of Cover. It is our goal to present the Standards of Cover to the Board of Fire Commissioners later in September.

Staff met with Analyst Jennifer Pardee on her last day of employment with Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. She was thanked for her years of service to the citizens of our community and provided her with a small token of our appreciation from SRFR.

Fire and Life Safety

Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal's Office is receiving an increase in parking complaints and violations. Staff are developing solutions to address this problem.

Annual Safety Inspections for all schools in Mill Creek and Monroe are complete. Staff are working to complete fire safety inspections for the Lake Stevens School District.

Community Relations

The Fall Newsletter proof is completed and will go to the printer on 9/2.

The website is being updated with Levy information.

Open houses are scheduled. Staff will meet next week to initiate more planning. The dates for the Open Houses will be 10/4 at 81, 10/6 at 71 and 10/9 at 31.

Staff completed an updated draft of Public Information and Education Officer position description.

Accreditation

Staff continue to work on the accreditation process.

Administration

Staff continue to educate the public about the Fire Levy vote which will take place on November 2, 2021.

On 9/8, Commissioner Steinruck, Chief O'Brien and staff presented levy information to the Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce.

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.27 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

- Voters last approved a fire levy lid lift in 2017.

Inflation and costs for emergency services are outpacing revenue.

- Call volumes have increased 10.2% compared to the same time period last year.
- SRFR is limited to a 1% levy revenue increase per year
- Inflation is 6.3%.
- New construction fees provide a one-time payment, but that funding is inconsistent.

We've made almost \$1.5 million in budget cuts, but it's not enough to keep up with rising costs and demand for service. Budget cuts include:

- Community Resource Paramedic program
- Firefighter training
- Fire and life safety prevention program
- Some apparatus replacements.

Growth and higher call volumes mean there is a need for more emergency services not less.

- More homes do not mean more levy revenue.
- The fire levy rate actually decreases to limit a fire district to roughly the same amount of levy revenue, plus 1%.

The lid lift would last for one year and cost the owner of a home valued at \$500,000 an additional \$9.58 per month (\$115 per year). Revenue would be used to:

- Maintain staffing levels
- Restore firefighter training and fire and life safety prevention programs
- Replace aging fire engines and ambulances; and,
- Fund fire station projects throughout the district.

Fire districts are legally required to operate under a balanced budget. We have a plan if the lid lift fails, but it means more cuts and longer response times.

- Take money from a reserve account for stations and apparatus to fund daily operations.
- Borrow money to fund these capital items, which would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments.
- Reduce public outreach, fire prevention, maintenance, training, and specialized rescue programs.
- Layoff emergency personnel, which would result in service level cuts and longer response times.

Finance has received draft 2022 budget recommendations from staff and is preparing the information for further review during the month of September.

Staff are working collaboratively with the Firefighters Union and legal counsel to develop a policy that supports the Governor's Vaccination Proclamation.

Payroll is finalizing the wage and benefits for the September 15th payroll as a result of the recently ratified Union 2781 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Staff are continuing to work on the Department of Retirement Services audit and requests for information.