



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Mission

Save Lives, Protect Property, Safeguard the Environment, and Take Care of People

Vision

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

Guiding Values

Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Teamwork, Service

OPERATIONS

Retirements

Congratulations to Lieutenant Ron Adams. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue celebrated Ron's 45 years of service to the community on April 4th, with a flag ceremony at Station 71.

Congratulations to Mindy Leber! Mindy is retiring on April 11th and has served with Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue for 18 years. Thank you Mindy!

We continue to thank our Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums for their professionalism during our retirement ceremonies.

Fire Suppression / Special Operations

HazMat Training

The Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue HazMat Team Lead Scott Rybar and Training Coordinator Kris Olsen presented a county HazMat Team Training at Station 71 on April 2nd. The training was attended by over 30 county HazMat Technicians.

Water Rescue Instructor Training

During the last week of March, seven members of the Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Water Rescue Team took a 40-hour swift-water instructor class. They participated in classroom, dry land and water skill development with an internationally known instructor trainer, Mike Mather. The completion of this class adds to the instructor cadre of Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue for swift-water rescue. DJ Mattern, Brandon Huber, Brian Kees, Michael Stratton, Joe Virnig and Steve Kuhlman all participated in the class, teaching each other and being evaluated on their ability to teach and their skills in the river. They will all help instruct future water academy classes and annual department refresher training.



Technical Rescue Training

During the last week of March, Chad Squire took the lead in planning and coordinating confined space training for the County Tech Rescue Team. Chad also had help on some of those days from Randy Mickels and Kevin Gleason. Chad worked with Brightwater to conduct realistic rescues with Brightwater employees, to simulate scenarios that might happen. The team had to use technical rope and rigging systems to lower "rescuers" into below grade areas and conduct removal of the "victims." The collaboration with Brightwater staff was greatly appreciated since it provided realistic training in areas where the county team may respond to.

Training & Safety

Ready Rebound

A Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue member wanted to share a recent positive experience he had with Ready Rebound. He had been suffering from knee pain over the last five years without a correct diagnosis. He became frustrated with the medical process and decided to try our new benefit, Ready Rebound. He placed one phone call and Ready Rebound had him set up with an orthopedic surgeon, x-ray and MRI within two weeks, and in surgery on day 15 after the phone call. Ready Rebound most likely saved him six weeks of this process and got him on the road to recovery that much faster.

Overall stats for Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue year to date with Ready Rebound:

- 9 total cases
- Estimated 188 wait days saved
- Estimated \$82,720 in OT savings

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Block Training

The Engine Committee recognized there was an area that we haven't trained on for some time, so they found an expert in elevator operations at South County Fire to put on an elevator class. Greg Rudiger from South County Fire taught eight days of elevator operations training for the crews at a mid-rise apartment building in Lynnwood. Crews learned some new techniques for elevator rescues, and they were able to work on a new style of elevator that will become more prevalent in our area.

Sno4 Block Training

Snohomish Fire District 4 hosted four days of ventilation and forcible entry training at the Pine Avenue property that was attended by Sno4, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, and South County Fire. Training has had a higher-than-normal demand for instructors and physical labor at this property and our members have delivered. Thank you for your commitment and all your hard work!



Lateral Paramedics

We have two new lateral hire medics that started on April 1st. Welcome Douglas Seitz and Cameron Edwards to the team! Our lateral medics will go through a seven-week lateral academy which is a condensed version of our recruit academy.

In addition to our new lateral medics, we had 12 recruit firefighters hit the line on April 1st and are now probationary firefighters. Let's welcome this much needed help to our team.

ADMINISTRATION

Sikora Report

Leadership takes responsibility for the findings in the Sikora Report, and we are committed to listen, learn, and improve. We are taking action to improve leadership and communication with our people.

- The CLT met with Dr. Sikora on 4/10/24 to discuss the results and they are developing a plan to help leadership improve. The CLT will meet again on 4/17/24.
- Staff and Commissioners have been meeting face to face with our people in fire stations. This will continue.
- Chief O'Brien has been attending morning shift briefings.
- The Sikora Report will be the key topic at the Leadership Meeting on 4/24/24.
- Staff will continue reaching out to all members of SRFR to listen, learn, and improve.

Retirements, Promotions, & New Hires

Congratulations to Laura Gonzalez and her promotion to Administrative Specialist assigned to Records!

Chamber Meetings

The April 3rd Sky Valley Chamber Membership Luncheon was attended by Assistant Chief Messer and Deputy Fire Marshal Bowen. The topic for April was Presenting Tax Planning for Business and Individuals with Katy Woods, VP Branch Manager with Coastal Community Bank.

The April 9th Monroe Chamber Membership Luncheon was attended by Chief O'Brien, Commissioner Schaub, Assistant Chief Messer, Assistant Chief Lundquist, Deputy Chief McConnell, Deputy Chief Rasmussen, and Local 2781 Union President Fisher. The topic for April was the City of Monroe State of Address by Mayor Geoffrey Thomas.

The April 10th Lake Stevens Chamber Membership Luncheon was attended by Chief O'Brien, Commissioner Elmore, Commissioner Schaub, Deputy Chief Rasmussen, Deputy Fire Marshal LeDuc, and Program Specialist Larson. The topic for April was a legislative update by Representative Sam Low, Representative Carolyn Eslick, and Senator Keith Wagoner.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief