



## SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

### Chief's Report

June 13, 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

### RETIREMENTS

#### **Driver Operator Joel Lenkeek**

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue honored Driver Operator Joel Lengkeek and his 31 years of service on Tuesday, May 28, 0900, at Station 81. We thank Joel, for his dedicated service to our community!

#### **Battalion Chief Troy Elmore**

The Mukilteo Fire Department honored Battalion Chief Troy Elmore and his 35 years of service on Wednesday, May 29, 0800, at Station 25 (10400 47<sup>th</sup> Pl. W. Mukilteo). Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue extends our honor to Battalion Chief Elmore for his dedicated service to the community. We look forward to Commissioner Elmore continuing his steadfast service to the SRFR Community! Congratulations Battalion Chief/Commissioner Elmore!

### OPERATIONS

#### **Significant Alarms**

##### **HazMat Response**

On June 4th, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue units responded to a report of an accidental mixture of chemicals causing a reaction. Battalion 31, Engine 31, Engine 33, Hazmat 72, Fire Marshal 71, and Aid 31 responded to the incident. Crews found that employees on site mistakenly mixed two chemicals and the mixture created an exothermic (heat) reaction. One of the employees was exposed to the gas being produced by the reaction.

Crews found the mixture and reported that it was no longer reacting. Command was established and a HazMat Group was assigned. Fire Marshal 71 was assigned as the Hazmat Group Supervisor. The Hazmat Group identified the mixture, isolated and denied entry to the area around the mixture and set-up for decontamination. The Hazmat Group overpacked the chemical



mixture. The overpacked chemicals were left in the possession of the business and they helped arrange disposal.

The employee that was exposed to the mixture was evaluated by Aid 31 and was left on scene, after contacting Poison Control.

### **Recruitment**

#### **Entry Level Firefighter and Paramedic Second Round Interviews**

Second Round interviews were held for Entry Level Firefighter and Paramedic. Thank you to all who participated in the process. Additionally, kudos to our hiring committee for developing an updated process. Chief's interviews begin the week of June 17.

#### **Deputy Chief First Round Interviews**

During the week of June 4, Second Round Interviews for Deputy Chief were held. 12 candidates were interviewed and 6 have been invited to Third Round interviews scheduled for July 9. Following the Third Round, candidates will be ranked and moved to Chief Interviews. Our goal is to have the new Deputy Chief on board in July.

### **Training & Safety**

#### **TDA Training**

Over the course of three weeks in May, six new tractor drawn aerial (TDA) qualified members were in training. The training is administered over the course of a week. Two members are trained each week and the training requires two qualified instructors. It is a very intensive, 40 hour training program and necessary to have qualified TDA operators. It is important to note that following the initial 40 hours of training, participants will have additional training prior to being formally approved as a TDA driver.

The following six members received the initial 40 hours of TDA training: Jonothan Thompson, Perry Taylor, Kris Christensen, Brandon Neville, Brad Gilbert, and Eric Reygers. Thank you to the following instructors for making this happen: Steve Tickle, Jerem Rhoades, Brian Kerr, Ryan Englund, Kevin Gleason, Randy Mickels, Kirk Dunham, and Chad Berg.

#### **Auto Extrication Training**

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue conducted its own auto extrication training on May 15-16 at Braven Auto and Metals in Lake Stevens. Thank you to our Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue instructors Chad Squire, Randy Mickels, and Megan McGrew for putting on a great two-day class. The following members attended: Chris Harrott, Pierson Cockburn, Noah Compton, Cary Cronin, Tony Gleason, Mason Johnson, Kris Olsen, Chris Pack, Dylon Stavros, and Dmitriy Surkanov.



### **Body Armor Training**

The Body Armor Committee completed its fitting and training for operations personnel last month. Thank you to all the members of the committee for the time you put in to help protect our members. The committee members include: Ryan Lowe, Cory Odgers, Chris Robertson, Pat Gjerde, John Rouse, Noah Compton, and Robert Seda.

### **Wildland Refresher Training**

Lt. Jeff Dickinson instructed our Wildland Refresher Training, and it is now complete for this year. Thank you for making this happen Lt. Dickinson.

### **Training Division**

The Training Division said farewell and happy retirement to Joel Lengkeek at the end of May. Joel's easy-going attitude and hard work mentality will be missed. The division also said farewell to Brian Kees who spent over two years in the division and is being reassigned to the line. We thank you for your hard work and dedication to serving our members. We welcome Scott Boswell and Jarrod Spence as great new additions to the Training Division.

### **RLB Training Center Partnership**

SRFR and Snohomish Fire Dist. 4 have approved an Interlocal Agreement to share the RLB Training Center. The two Training Divisions will continue working together to facilitate the use of the RLB. We thank Fire Dist. 4 for their partnership and collaboration.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Facilities Update**

#### **Station 72**

Today, Thursday, 6/13/24, Engine 72 has been relocated back to Station 72. As an emergency interim "fix" to the septic drain field failure, the drain field pump has been shut down and the septic tank is scheduled to be pumped on a weekly basis. The tank will be monitored for overflow.

We are working with our attorney and an engineer to expedite a permanent connection to the Silver Lake Sewer and Water District.

#### **Station 83**

Station 83 is progressing slowly due to a few outstanding issues:

- The low voltage electrician strike has slowed us down and limited us from being able to cover the walls. We have been working on solutions like running conduit in the walls and ceilings.
- We had an issue with L&I on the mezzanine above the bay bathroom. The room was too short for the equipment going in the room. We applied for a variance with L&I and the variance was returned with an ok to proceed.



- Our original Fire Alarm panel was obsolete. We are working with B&H Fire and Security to get a new system installed.
- We ran into some serious water damage in the front of the building that was unanticipated. The wall has been rebuilt.
- We are working on evaluating siding proposals.
- We have asked the contractor for an updated completion date and are waiting for a reply. The project will not be completed in June as originally estimated.

### **Station 31 Shop Remodel**

We have awarded the Shop project to GenCap Construction as the responsible low bidder. We are working through the contract documents with our project manager OAC, Gencap and our Attorney Brian Snure. Once we have an agreed upon document, we will send it to Senior Staff for review and then to the BOC for approval. The Shop and Logistics have been busy preparing the shop grounds for the project. Thank you, Logistics Techs and Shop Staff.

### **Stations 32 and 81**

BNB Builders and Miller Hull were awarded the Station 81 and 32 projects pending successful contract negotiations. We are working with our project manager OAC and Pacifica Law Group to negotiate a final contract with BNB and Miller Hull. Once we get an agreed upon contract and price, Senior Staff will review and the Board of Fire Commissioners will determine final approval.

### **Training Property**

The sale of the Training property is getting close to completion with a closing date of August 13th. There is a Public Hearing scheduled for June 25th for Main Vue Homes to go in front of the Public Hearings Examiner for approval of their plans to build homes on the property.

### **Community Relations**

#### **Public Education**

During the months of April, May, and June, PIEO King visited 19 second grade classrooms at Sunnycrest Elementary, Highland Elementary, Ruby Bridges Elementary and Machias Elementary. Students learned about escape planning, calling 9-1-1, and sheltering in place!

During the months March through May, the PIEO's along with on-duty crews taught the kindergarten lesson, Toys vs. Tools, to students at Lake Stevens Early Learning Center, Kokanee Elementary, Machias Elementary, Sky Valley Preschool, and Highland Elementary. Students learned what to do when they see matches and lighters, what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, and what firefighters look like in their gear.

At the end of April, PIEO King taught the IFSAC Fire & Life Safety Educator 1 along with South County's Shawneri Guzman. Students learned about classroom management, fire behavior, and lesson plan development. At the end of the course, students became certified as FLSE1's. At



the beginning of June, PIEO Mongillo presented as the SME (Subject Matter Expert) for the Media Relations portion of the class. Students learned about media relations, and how to support the IC in an emergency situation.

At the end of May, PIEO King and PIEO Mongillo visited Cavelero Mid High School to teach 9th graders about the dangers of distracted driving using the Impact Teen Drivers curriculum.

The PIEO's also worked to finish the Spring 2024 Newsletter which went out to the mailboxes the first week of April.

#### School Visits:

- Kinder: 18 Classes School Year-to-Date
- 2nd Grade: 40 Classes School Year-to-Date
- Middle/High School: 51 Classes School Year-to-Date

#### Upcoming Community Events:

- July 9th - Water Safety Camp, Lake Tye
- July 17th - Water Safety Camp, Lundeen Park

#### Public Information

Social Media Snapshot: May 1 – June 5, 2024

- 52 Posts
- 130 New Followers/Accounts
- 190,380 Impressions/Engagement/Clicks

#### External Media

5/2 Lake Stevens Boat Fire

KIRO <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/snohomish-firemen-battle-boat-fire-lake-stevens/HFU2UO4OHRHALG76MNJWI3PVDQ/>

5/19 Lake Stevens Fatal Fire

KOMO <https://komonews.com/news/local/deadly-overnight-fire-engulfs-machias-home-kills-sole-resident-snohomish-regional-fire-rescue-blaze-fatal-death-destruction-firefighter-response-water-hydrant-burn-burnt-attack-truck-engine-marshal>

KIRO <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/large-house-fire-turns-fatal-machias/CNSIMFHSRRGXPK3HYO7WQQT6U/>

Everett Herald

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/1-woman-dead-house-in-fire-east-of-lake-stevens/>

5/19 Lost Lake Garage Fire

KIRO <https://www.kiro7.com/news/snohomish-fire-crews/T36G7ZKYK5HAFKCPUKTSYMTCY/>



6/3 Lake Stevens FRC and Winds

KOMO <https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-power-outages-puget-sound-energy-western-washington-forecast-snohomish-pud-pse-tacoma-public-utilities-city-light-storm-gusty-winds-downed-trees#>

Everett Herald <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/thousands-of-utility-customers-lose-power-in-overnight-storm/>

Lynnwood Times <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2024/06/03/lake-stevens-fire-240603/>

Fox 13 <https://www.fox13seattle.com/news/lake-stevens-house-fire>

KIRO <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/home-burns-after-tree-falls-power-lines-crashes-into-house-lake-stevens/G2UFGJXIWZD65EPUU3YAESBWJM/>

#### Internal Media

- Lake Stevens Boat Fire
- 94th Dr Lake Stevens Shed Fire
- Tree Victim Meets SRFR
- MVCE Hwy 9
- Brush Fire on Ebey Island
- Lost Lake Garage Fire
- Carlson Rd Lake Stevens Fatal FRC
- EMS Week
- SCFTA Graduation
- Medic 31 Unit Tour
- Grill/BBQ Safety
- Memorial Day
- Driver Operator Joel Lengkeek Retirement
- Life Jacket Cabinets Open
- SRFR Opens Its First Life Jacket Loaner Hangers at Lake Tye
- 44th St Lake Stevens FRC
- Powerlines and Trees E32

We are doing a fun "Tool Tuesdays" on IG and FB stories quizzing the public on the tools Firefighters use. It has been fun, and people are interacting.

#### **Office of the Fire Marshal**

Deputy Fire Marshal Dave LeDuc passed the International Code Council Fire Inspector II exam. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication that Dave brings to the Office of the Fire Marshal. Congratulations to DFM LeDuc!





## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Finance**

The Finance team has successfully submitted the 2023 fiscal year-end annual report to the State Auditor's Office.

The Payroll/Benefits team has completed the DRS Audit and corrections required by the state. This has been a huge undertaking that has been in the works since 2022.

The Payroll/Benefits team has completed the retro pay and benefits for the IAFF CBA ratification. This included roughly \$4 million in pay and an additional million in benefits that were processed. Thank you to the team for their hard work on this!

### **Retirements, Promotions, & New Hires**

Admin Assistant Allison Long has moved from the IT Division to the Finance Division of the Admin Support Squad! Allison's attention to detail, passion for customer service, and positive attitude, will make her a great addition to the team!

### **Commissioners Conference**

All seven commissioners and staff attended the Washington State Fire Commissioner's Spring conference in Lake Chelan over the weekend of June 1st. The conference agenda included a seminar on strategic planning. It highlighted reviewing the district's policies and procedures and integrated artificial intelligence issues, data management, response and service delivery, and long-term financing options.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief