



## **SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE**

### **Chief's Report**

**February 27, 2025**

#### **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 and Promotions**

Please join us in congratulating the following employees on their upcoming retirements! We also want to express our gratitude for their dedicated service to the citizens of SRFR. Their contributions have helped shape the organization into what it is today!

- Mechanic Dave Jonkers; retiring Friday, March 7, 2025. Dave's celebration will be at 1:00 p.m. at Station 31 on his last day, March 7. Thank you for your 22 years of service!
- Battalion Chief Matt Bernethy; retiring Tuesday, April 1, 2025. BC Bernethy's flag ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. at Station 81. Thank you for your 35 years of service!
- Battalion Chief Travis Welch; retiring Tuesday, April 1, 2025. BC Welch's flag ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m. at Station 81. Thank you for your 35 years of service!

Congratulations to the employees listed below and their recent promotions effective April 1:

- Brandon Gardner, Battalion Chief
- Ryan Lowe, Battalion Chief
- Marck Fujiwara-Herbert, Lieutenant

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **Significant Alarms**

##### **Motor Vehicle Collision 2/10/2025**

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue units responded to a Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) on State Route 522 (SR 522) involving significant injuries and possible entrapment. The initial dispatch included Battalion 31, Engine 31, Medic 31, Engine 33, Aid 31, and Medical Services Officer 71, and with Medic 71 and Battalion 71 added based on the severity of the situation.



Engine 33 arrived on scene and confirmed a significant two car collision. Immediately, Engine 33 began patient care and triage, while Battalion 31 established command for the incident on SR 522. Engine 31, Medic 31, and Aid 31 joined the response to assist with patient care and extrication efforts. SR 522 was closed, and the scene was secured by SRFR engines. Three patients were initially triaged as two Advanced Life Support (ALS) and one Basic Life support (BLS), though all three were later classified as ALS. Medic 41 was added to transport the third ALS patient.

Extrication was required with both drivers, who were trapped in their vehicles. One patient managed to self-extricate and was found lying behind the second vehicle. Engine 33 and Engine 31 led the extrication efforts, with Engine 71, Medic 71, Battalion 71, and Medical Services Officer 71 arriving to assist. Medical Services Officer 71 coordinated with Providence to confirm they could accommodate all three ALS patients. Medic 71 transported the non-entrapped patient to the hospital. The extrication of Vehicle 1, a BMW, took approximately 12-15 minutes, with Medic 31 transporting the driver to Providence in Everett. The extrication of Vehicle 2 took about 20-25 minutes, with the patient loaded into Medic 41 for transport to Providence in Everett, with Medical Services Officer 71 assisting during the transfer.

Once the scene was cleared and equipment cleaned, the remaining SRFR units returned to service, leaving Washington State Patrol on scene.





### **Gas Leak at SRFR Administration Building 2/13/2025**

Units B31, E31, and E32 were dispatched to the SRFR Administration Building in response to a reported smell of natural gas. Upon arrival, the crews found a medium, two-story, building with all occupants evacuated.

Engine 31 made entry into the building to assess any potential hazards. While no gas readings were detected on the gas monitor, a noticeable odor of natural gas was still present. Engine 31 accessed the roof and shut down the natural gas supply to all heat pumps as a precaution. An HVAC company arrived on scene to inspect the building, locate the source of the leak, and determine if it was safe for reoccupation. Engine 31 then left the scene in the care of SRFR maintenance and the HVAC specialist. After the gas source was isolated and the HVAC company confirmed there was no danger, all occupants were cleared to re-enter the building.



The source of the leak was traced to an older HVAC unit located on the roof. The faulty unit was shut down, and the remaining five units continued to operate. The Logistics Division is handling replacement of the old HVAC unit.

### **Special Operations**

#### **Technical Rescue Response 2/19/2025**

Tactical Rescue 31 was requested to a mutual aid response with Skykomish Fire for a report of a person with a dump truck on their foot at approximately 10:00 a.m. Two SRFR Rescue Technicians, Lieutenant Squire and Firefighter Rhoades, responded from Station 71. Lieutenant Squire contacted Dicks Towing for their heavy lift rotator truck while enroute. Two technicians from Station 41 also responded directly to the scene.

Upon arrival, the Tactical Rescue 31 crew found a patient already being cared for by units on scene. The patient had both legs trapped under the rear axle of a fully loaded cement truck, estimated to weigh 70,000 pounds. Heavy lift struts from Tactical Rescue 31 were utilized to raise the truck about eight inches, providing some relief to the patient. Just as they were preparing to reposition for further lift, Dicks Towing arrived, having been escorted by police all the way from Everett. Dicks Towing rigged the truck for a lift that successfully freed the patient. The patient was then transported by Medic 54 to Providence for further care, with SRFR's own Dave Hanson. Efforts were slightly complicated by the soft ground conditions and snow, but the situation was safely managed.

Great work by our SRFR Rescue Technicians and the mutual aid companies involved in the successful operation!

### **Emergency Medical Services**

#### **EMS Training**

The first quarter of the EMS Ongoing Training and Education Program (OTEP) was successfully completed through a collaborative effort with Snohomish County Fire District 4, and South County Fire, held at two separate training sites. This achievement reflects the dedication and hard work being carried out by the Training Alliance.

#### **Paramedic School Testing**

Congratulations to Dmitriy Surkanov, Johathon Billing, and Noah Compton on successfully passing the paramedic test! We look forward to the next phase in this process!

#### **Paramedic Recruitment**

Working alongside Firefighter Noah Compton from the Recruitment Committee, Deputy Chief Read and Paramedic Ball visited Central Washington University to speak with students about SRFR. A big thank you to the Recruitment Committee for their dedication and hard work!



### **Training**

Congratulations to Jeremy Karapostoles for successfully completing the requirements to become an Acting Battalion Chief! With this achievement, Jeremy is now fully qualified to take on Battalion shifts.

The deadline for submitting the Battalion Chief letter of intent has passed, and we are excited to announce that four candidates will be participating in this year's promotional testing. Best of luck to all the candidates as they move forward in the process!

### **Health & Safety**

We are pleased to announce our partnership with United Diagnostic Services and the LEOFF Health and Welfare Trust to offer this year's annual firefighter physicals. In addition to the standard physicals, we will also provide ultrasound screenings for cardiovascular health and cancer detection. Thanks to the support of the LEOFF Health and Welfare Trust, these services will be provided to firefighters at no cost.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Community Relations**

#### **Chamber of Commerce Membership Meetings**

The Sky Valley Chamber Membership Luncheon on February 5 was attended by Assistant Chief Messer and Senior Deputy Fire Marshal Bowen. The topic for February was the Stevens Pass Vail Resort Season Update with Christie Voos, Director of Base Area Operations.

The Monroe Chamber Membership Luncheon on February 11 was attended by Commissioner Elmore, Commissioner Schaub, Commissioner Waugh, Assistant Chief Messer, and Senior Deputy Fire Marshal Bowen. The topic for February was Level Up Your Business: Valuable Insights and Practical Strategies for Improved Time Management with Katie Woods, Coastal Bank Branch Manager.

The Lake Stevens Chamber Membership Luncheon on February 12 was attended by Commissioner Elmore, Commissioner Schaub, Deputy Fire Marshal LeDuc, and Program Specialist Larson. The topic for February was Community Transit and their pilot project for Lake Stevens – Zip Shuttle.

### **Logistics**

#### **Annual Planning Meeting**

Logistics held a proactive and productive Annual Planning Meeting on February 25.



### **Station 31 Shop Remodel**

The Certificate of Occupancy was received on February 19 and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for February 27 at 11:00 a.m. We look forward to celebrating this milestone!

### **Stations 32 and 81**

SRFR and OAC continue discussions with BN Builders/Miller Hull to review ongoing program planning and general cost estimates, working toward a mutually agreed-upon Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). Additionally, a Phase 1B Amendment to Phase 1 was approved on February 13 by the Board of Commissioners.

### **Station 72**

Donna Breske & Associates have submitted all required documents to Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD) for sewer and water approval. We expect to receive a response from AWWD soon. Pumping operations have continued smoothly, thanks to current staffing levels and the lack of rain. Logistics will continue to monitor sewage volumes. A big thank you to the crews for their ongoing efforts to minimize water usage.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Human Resources**

The Human Resources team continued to support recruitment, hiring, and promotional processes while ensuring compliance with employment regulations and benefits administration. Key updates are listed below:

#### **Recruitment & Hiring**

- **University Recruitment Events** – Members of the Recruitment Committee, administrative staff, and Human Resources (HR) staff attended job fairs at Central Washington University and the University of Washington. Many thanks to Pierson Cockburn, Bradley Gilbert, Kelsey Ayer, Vince Read, Matt Ball and Noah Compton for representing SRFR!
- **Administrative Assistant Position Hiring** – The first round of interviews for the open administrative assistant position has been completed, and second-round interviews are currently being scheduled.
- **Firefighter & Paramedic Hiring** – The application period for entry-level firefighter and paramedic positions closed on February 13. HR is reviewing the candidate list from National Testing Network (NTN) based on parameters set by the Hiring Committee. Candidates will be contacted and scheduled for first-round interviews based on their NTN scores. These interviews are scheduled for the week of March 10.



### **Promotional Processes for Eligibility Lists**

- **Assistant Fire Marshal Promotional List** – Preparation for the promotional process remains on track, with the assessment center scheduled for the week of March 24.
- **Paramedic Training Program Eligibility List** – The assessment center to establish the eligibility list concluded on February 13. Congratulations to Dmitry Surkanov, John Billing, and Noah Compton!

### **Support & Compliance**

HR continued to provide guidance on benefits, labor relations, and compliance matters while supporting senior staff and workforce planning initiatives.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief

