



Chief's Report

April 24, 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

NEW HIRE

Victoria Vega recently joined SRFR as our new Administrative Assistant – Reception. Welcome to the SRFR family, Victoria!

RECOGNITION

Last week, SRFR crew from Station 77 presented retired Battalion Chief Bill Wirtz with the SRFR Operational Campaign Award for his service as the HazMat Group Supervisor during the Oso landslide response back in 2014. Thank you for your service, BC Wirtz!

OPERATIONS

Significant Alarms

Motor Vehicle Collision

On April 8, SRFR crews responded to a serious motor vehicle collision on SR9 in the Lake Stevens area involving a minivan and a Smart car. Upon arrival, responders found the smaller vehicle had sustained significant damage and the driver had been ejected. Tragically, the driver did not survive. The driver of the minivan required extrication but was found to be uninjured. A passenger in the minivan was able to exit the vehicle on their own and was also unharmed. Lake Stevens Police remained on scene to investigate.

During the response, Battalion 81 was able to contact the family of the deceased. The individual's mother, who is from out of the area and without local support, arrived on the scene shortly afterward. Battalion 81 and Chaplain 81 brought her to Station 82, where they, along with station personnel, provided comfort, guidance, and a safe place to begin processing her loss. We would like to acknowledge the compassionate support provided by Chaplains Mike and Alvena Baughman, as well



as the Station 82 crew, during this incredibly difficult time. We appreciate the professionalism, teamwork, and care shown by all personnel involved.

Residential Fire

In the early morning hours of April 12, SRFR crews were dispatched to a residential structure fire at a single-story home that was already well-involved in fire upon arrival. Power lines were active near the structure, and no fire hydrants were available onsite, requiring additional water tenders to be dispatched. A resident was found outside the home, being assisted by neighbors.

Due to the extent of the fire, crews operated in a defensive strategy to protect nearby exposures and ensure safety. Firefighters worked from multiple sides of the home to bring the fire under control, while additional crews were assigned to patient care and water supply operations. The fire was largely knocked down within 20–30 minutes, but extensive overhaul was needed to ensure full extinguishment. During this process, crews monitored for hot spots, conducted a primary search once it was safe to do so, and performed ventilation work to gain better visibility and control of any remaining fire in the garage area.

The home sustained significant damage, with an estimated 90% loss due to fire. The resident was treated on scene for serious injuries and transported in critical condition to Harborview Medical Center. SRFR crews remained on scene until approximately 3:45 a.m. and returned around 5:00 a.m. to extinguish a hot spot identified by 1-800-BoardUp. SRFR is grateful for the mutual aid provided by King County Fire District 50, Marysville Fire District, Snohomish County Fire District 4, Snohomish County Fire District 17, and Snohomish County Fire District 22.

Special Operations

Technical Rescue Training

Between March 17–21, the Snohomish County Technical Rescue Team conducted their annual confined space permit entry training at Station 83, led by SRFR's Chad Squire and supported by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from Marysville Fire District, Everett Fire Department, and Snohomish County Fire District 4.

This hands-on training is required annually to ensure our team remains ready to respond to high-risk, confined space incidents. Across the United States, there are more than 2.1 million confined space entries each year, with an average of 100 related fatalities. Keeping our responders prepared is critical to reducing that risk and ensuring safety for both workers and emergency personnel. SRFR serves multiple facilities that involve routine confined space entries, one example is the Brightwater Sewage Treatment Plant, making this training especially relevant for our team.

Training

Acting Driver/Operator Qualification

Congratulations to Jacob Eldredge and Bryan Kerr for successfully passing their final training evaluations for the Acting Driver/Operator qualification. They are now officially eligible to serve as



Driver/Operators for SRFR. We appreciate their hard work, commitment, and dedication!

Spring Tactical

The Snohomish County Training Officers are hosting an educational event at the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy in Stanwood, and all SRFR members are invited to attend. This is a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the curriculum and instruction delivered at the Academy.

The session will begin in the classroom with an overview of the curriculum, strategies for running a successful academy, and ongoing efforts to enhance training year after year. The second half of the event will feature a live demonstration of recruit-level tactics and techniques, with an option for attendees to participate in hands-on practical skills. Seasoned line supervisors, chief officers, and anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of recruit training are encouraged to attend.

Health & Safety

Ultrasound Screenings Completed

United Diagnostic Services recently wrapped up two weeks of ultrasound screenings at the Admin building and Station 82. These screenings focused on the early detection of cardiovascular disease and cancer. A total of 100 members took part in this important preventative health effort. Thank you to everyone who participated!

ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief Search

On April 17, SRFR welcomed Chief Gordie Olson with GMP Consultants for an onsite visit. Chief Olson engaged in valuable conversations with crews at Stations 31, 82, and 71, as well as with administrative, shop, logistics, and executive staff, union representatives, and community leaders. These discussions provided important insights that will guide the recruitment process as SRFR searches for its next Fire Chief.

Administration

The District celebrated Support Staff Day on April 23 with a special lunch honoring team members from the Admin Support Squad, HR, IT, Training, Community Relations, Strategic Analysis, Logistics, and the Shop. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our support staff, whose efforts are vital to our mission, our team, and the community we serve.

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief