



Chief's Report

May 8, 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

Promotion

Following an extensive examination process and a Chief's interview, we are pleased to let you know that Jeremy Karapostoles will be promoted to Battalion Chief effective June 1, 2025. Thank you to all the candidates and those who assisted in the process. Congratulations, Battalion Chief Karapostoles!

OPERATIONS

Significant Alarms

Motor Vehicle Collision

On the morning of April 16, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR), with mutual aid from Snohomish County Fire District 5 (SCFD5), responded to a motor vehicle collision involving a car and a semi-truck on SR 2, just east of Monroe.

Battalion 31 arrived to find a heavily damaged vehicle with the driver trapped. East Battalion and SCFD 5 crews quickly began extrication and had the driver out within 10 minutes. Medical Services Officer 71 arrived shortly after and assisted with medical care. Despite this swift extrication and support from paramedics, the driver was found to be in fatal cardiac arrest. The occupants of the semi-truck and another vehicle declined medical care. SRFR appreciates the coordinated efforts and professionalism of all involved.

Motor Vehicle Collision

On April 19, East Battalion units responded to a serious three-vehicle collision involving a trapped driver. The crash occurred at high speed, sending one vehicle off the roadway and into nearby trees. Law enforcement was already on scene when SRFR responders arrived.



Three patients were quickly triaged, with one requiring a complex extrication due to significant vehicle damage. SRFR established a traffic safety zone, provided medical care, and worked quickly to free the trapped individual, who was subsequently transported for further medical care. The other two individuals involved did not require medical transport.

Mutual Aid Fire with Injuries

SRFR's North Battalion units responded with Granite Falls Fire District 17 to a residential fire that resulted in three injuries. One individual sustained burns while attempting to control the fire using a pressure washer. Medic 82 transported one patient with airway injuries from heat and smoke exposure. The remaining patients were treated on scene.

Special Operations

Technical Rescue Response

On April 24, SRFR provided mutual aid to Sky Valley Fire for the rescue of a climber who was injured after a fall on the Index Wall. Paramedics and technical rescue personnel joined the operation, working with other rescue teams in challenging terrain. The patient was assessed, stabilized, secured in a Stokes basket, safely lowered to the ground, and transported by Sky Valley Fire for further medical care.

Technical Rescue Response

On April 26, members of SRFR's Technical Rescue Team responded to the Index Wall after a climber fell approximately 100 feet. The individual was conscious with back and leg injuries.

SRFR's Engine 82 and Technical Rescue 31 partnered with Snohomish County Fire District 4 and Snohomish County Search & Rescue in a complex, multi-agency operation. Crews hiked into the remote location, established an extrication plan, and coordinated with Snohawk 10 for airlift. The individual was safely transferred to the Snohawk 10 flight crew for transport and continued medical care. Read more about the rescue [here](#).





Training

Battalion Chief Promotional Process

The Training Division, with the help of Human Resources, internal and external evaluators, and role players, completed a productive Battalion Chief promotional process. Four candidates successfully completed the process, and all four are on the promotional list. Congratulations to Jeremy Karapostoles, Brian Kees, Scott Boswell, and Sam Langheld!

Acting Lieutenant

Congratulations to Driver/Operator Kirk Dunham on successfully completing his final training evaluation and earning qualification as an Acting Lieutenant. Thank you, Kirk, for your hard work and dedication!

Health & Safety

PHS Annual Physicals

This year's annual physicals wrapped up on April 27, after 12 days of assessments. Professional Health Services (PHS) shared that our employees were exceptionally kind and patient throughout the process, which was greatly appreciated by the PHS team. The PHS doctor also reported that our overall health and fitness levels are impressive, significantly above average compared to other groups they see. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important process. Your patience and commitment to your health are truly appreciated!

SUPPORT SERVICES

Logistics

Stations 32 and 81

SRFR and our project management firm, OAC, continue to meet with BN Builders/Miller Hull to discuss program planning and cost estimates as we move toward establishing a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). The project is currently at approximately 30% design, with the next milestone being 100% design completion. Based on current site layouts, Station 81 is planned as a two-story structure, and Station 32 will be a single-story facility.

SRFR is meeting with the City of Lake Stevens to coordinate details regarding the shared stormwater vault and finalizing project scheduling. An amendment to the existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) will be necessary due to Land Pro Group's withdrawal from the project.

Additionally, collaboration with the City of Monroe on Station 32 continues, specifically regarding right-of-way requests.

Station 72

SRFR has received a Letter of Conditions from Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD) following their review of our plans and Developer Extension application. We are in the process of responding to their feedback.



SRFR HIGHLIGHTS

Recruit Open House

On Saturday, May 3, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) hosted a Recruit Open House, an invitation-only event for the top candidates in our current hiring process. Of the 35 candidates invited, approximately 30 attended.

The Recruit Open House was designed to help potential new hires determine if SRFR is the right fit for them. Candidates had the opportunity to engage with current SRFR members and learn what makes our organization a great place to work.

Various booths represented Human Resources, Special Operations, current probationary firefighters, academy instructors, the union, and the Fire Marshal's Office. One booth featured a couple of fire spouses who offered insights from a family perspective. This year's event was family-friendly, and many attendees brought spouses and children.

A big thank you to all the SRFR members who helped make the day a success!

SRFR Softball Team Win

On Sunday, May 4, SRFR's softball team delivered a standout performance, defeating the Monroe Police Department in an impressive 21-12 victory. Thank you to Coach Huber and all who played and participated. Congratulations on the win!

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief