



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Announces Promotions and New Hires

Monroe, Wash. – Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) promoted five personnel and hired 10 firefighter/emergency medical technicians in January. The new recruits are headed to the academy for training and will start work for the community in May.

Chief Kevin O'Brien says that these positions will help maintain emergency service levels for residents and businesses served by the Fire District. These service level improvements were possible thanks to support from the public for a fire levy lid lift in 2021.

"We are extremely grateful to our community for its support," said Chief O'Brien. "Call volumes continue to increase, and these positions are important to maintain response times."

The new firefighter/EMTs started at the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy in mid-February. They will be trained up and ready to hit the ground running in May of this year.

An interesting fact? A majority of instructors at the academy are SRFR personnel.

"It's the best of the best training for recruit firefighters for our fire district, and also for other agencies in Snohomish County," said Chief O'Brien. "We are incredibly proud that our people are recognized for their life saving skills and talent."

The Snohomish County Fire Training Academy is a regional consortium of agencies that have come together to train emergency personnel locally. This is more cost-effective for taxpayers and keeps firefighters closer to home where they are needed.

SRFR also promoted five personnel within the organization as it works to streamline operations. These promotions are part of SRFR's plan to seek accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The accreditation process assesses everything at the Fire District from emergency responses and command structure to financial stewardship. Accredited agencies have better save rates for fire and EMS calls.

Battalion Chief Colby Titland is now Deputy Chief of Operations. Acting Training Captain Michael McConnell is Deputy Chief of Health and Safety. Vincent Read, who served as an Acting Medical Services Officer, is now the Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services.



These positions report to Assistant Chief of Operations Ryan Lundquist, who was promoted from a deputy chief position. Chief Lundquist is responsible for daily emergency operations at SRFR, the emergency medical service program, firefighter training, and staff health and safety.

Long-term planning for emergency services is critical to meet the demands of a growing community. That's why a new position within the organization emerged with Deputy Chief Mike Messer now serving as Assistant Chief of Planning for the agency. He is responsible for community relations, strategic analysis, and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

"We're moving the best people into these positions to be ready to respond to any emergency," said Chief O'Brien. "Our community makes this possible by supporting Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue."

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Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves 180,655 residents in the cities of Lake Stevens, Monroe, and unincorporated southeast Snohomish County. It also provides emergency services to the city of Mill Creek on a contract basis through 2022. SRFR responds to an average of 17,000 emergency calls a year with highly-trained personnel and state-of-the-art rescue programs. More information about SRFR can be found at www.srfr.org.