



For Immediate Release

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Battalion Chief celebrates 37 years in the Fire Service

[Monroe, WA] – Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is honored to announce the retirement of Battalion Chief Bill Wirtz after 37 years in the fire service. Wirtz served his final shift with Snohomish Regional on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

Wirtz began his firefighting career in high school where he attended the Sno-Isle Fire Service Vocational Training Program. Shortly after graduating from Meadowdale High School he joined the City of Edmonds Fire Department as a volunteer. To gain additional experience and training, Wirtz applied for the Resident Firefighter Program with Snohomish County Fire District 7, now known as Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue.



During his two years as a resident firefighter/EMT he attended the Washington State Fire Academy and started the testing process aspiring to be hired full-time with an organization. In 1987, Wirtz was offered his dream job as a firefighter/EMT with Snohomish County Fire District 7.

“My roots are here and I plan to retire from this district,” Wirtz remembers telling the Fire Chief when he was offered the position.

Throughout his career, Wirtz served the community in many capacities working within the agency and with outside organizations. He worked his way through the ranks serving as Firefighter/EMT, Lieutenant, and then was promoted to Battalion Chief. He helped form the Snohomish County Hazardous Materials Response Team. He was also a consistent attendee to the SNOPAC Fire TAC meetings, and was part of the Fire Data Standards Committee.

Most notably was Wirtz’s dedication to the development of Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue’s Firefighter Health and Safety Program. As the industry became more aware of the danger posed by frequent exposure with high levels of carbon monoxide and other toxic hazards, Wirtz was an integral part in creating new policies and procedures to insure firefighter safety both on the fire grounds and at the stations.

His leadership and attention to detail will be greatly missed.



A retirement flag lowering ceremony was held on April 26, 2021 at his assigned station - Fire Station 71, and it was held virtually for additional personnel to celebrate his career.

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At the beginning of 2020, Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 merged agencies and formed Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. The district serves over 175,000 people over 140 square miles and is dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people in a fiscally responsible manner. Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue serves the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, and Monroe along with the unincorporated areas surrounding these communities. In 2020, emergency personnel responded to more than 16,000 emergency calls. Through community support, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has built an advanced emergency response system in Snohomish County with highly trained personnel and progressive rescue programs. We appreciate your support and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.

