

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Ave. S.
Everett WA 98208



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SNOHOMISH COUNTY
BRIER • EDMONDS
LYNNWOOD • MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I am humbled to serve as Interim Fire Chief for South County Fire. I was raised in southwest Snohomish County and am proud to have spent the last 25 years serving our community. I began volunteering with the Edmonds Fire Department in 1995 and was hired by the Mountlake Terrace Fire Department in 1996. Over the past 20 years of my career, a series of consolidation efforts occurred which combined five individual local fire agencies into one regional fire authority, which now stands united as South County Fire. I have had the privilege to promote within my career and was most recently appointed Assistant Chief of Operations by Fire Chief Doug Dahl prior to his recent retirement. I look forward to serving you in this new role with the added passion that comes from having roots in the community and the knowledge that our entire team provides outstanding service each day.



By Thad Hovis
Interim Fire Chief

Our hardworking first responders remain on the front lines responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the start, they have been undaunted in their mission to safely and effectively serve you. As their fire chief, I could not be prouder of the excellent care they are providing to our community and the support they are providing each other during this unprecedented time.

On behalf of all of us at South County Fire, I want to sincerely thank you. We are inspired by your words of encouragement and the many ways you have shown your

support for your firefighters. We recognize the sacrifices you are making and appreciate the steps you have taken to stay safe, which helps to slow the spread of coronavirus. We are all stakeholders in the health of our community, and working together we have clearly made a difference. I want to assure you that we are continually researching and adjusting our practices to efficiently and effectively respond to this long-term emergency. This includes coordinating our efforts with our partner cities, public health officials, Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, neighboring fire agencies as well as other local, tribal, state and federal partners.

In the fire service we frequently discuss that clear, concise and timely communication is critical. Our lives and the lives of the community we serve are dependent upon on it. The same type of communication is also essential in our messages to the public. With that, I wanted to share that South County Fire is discussing the possibility of asking our regional fire authority voters* to consider a fire/EMS benefit charge. Many communities have approved a benefit charge as it is considered a fairer way to fund essential emergency services. For example, small structures (such as single-family homes) pay less than larger ones (such as commercial developments) because it costs less to serve them in an emergency.

A benefit charge would lower the current fire levy rate from its limit of \$1.50 to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The Board of Fire Commissioners would then set a benefit charge based on the cost to provide emergency services for the next year. Similar to the fire levy, a benefit charge is capped at 60 percent of our operating budget. Watch for more information in the media, on our social media and website as your Board of Commissioners considers this possible ballot measure for the November general election.

In closing, I am honored to lead our organization and want to thank you again for being our valued partners, helping South County Fire continue to provide high quality emergency services to our growing community.

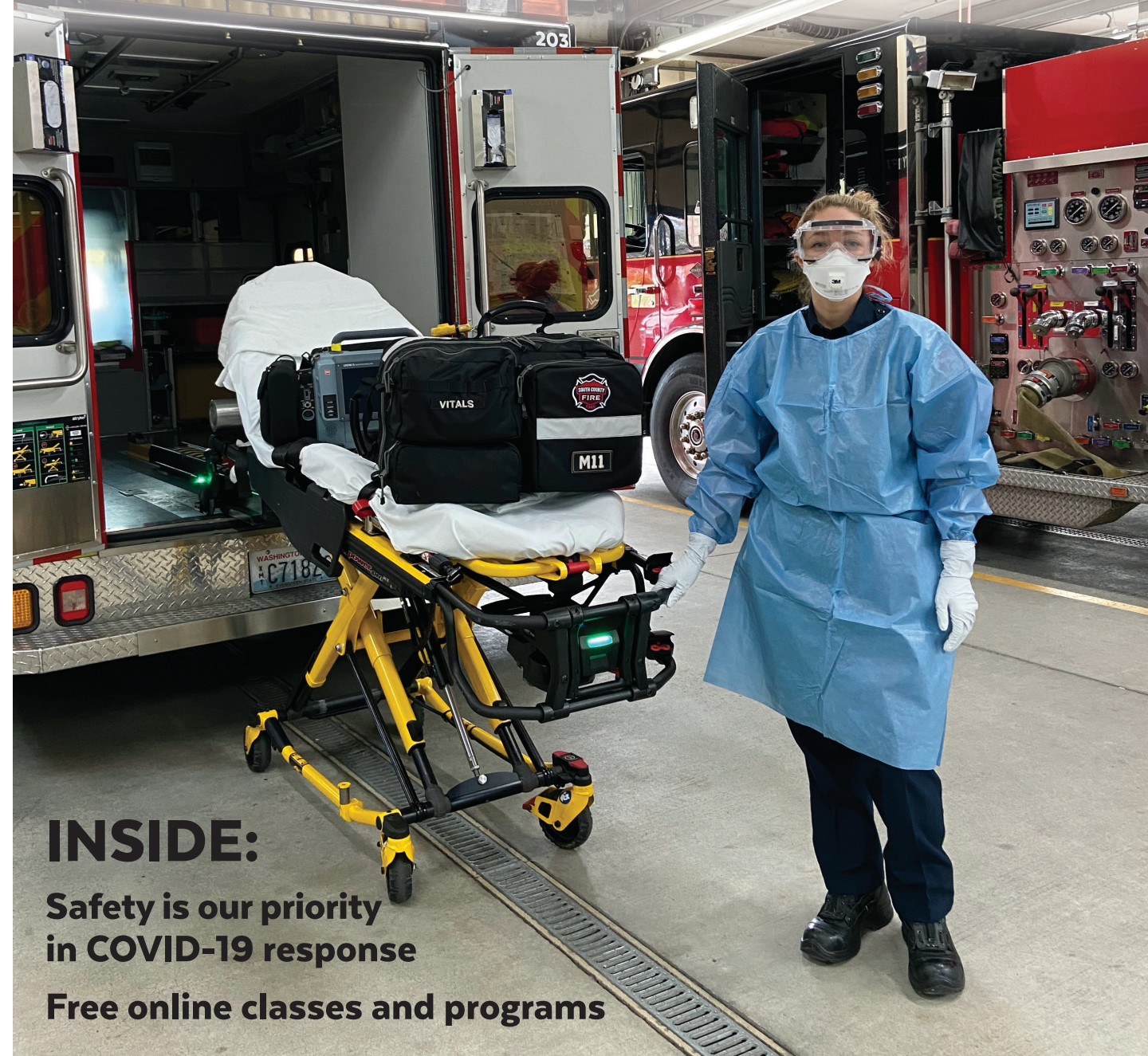
*This election would not apply to voters in Brier, Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace, who are provided emergency services through a contract with their cities.

SUMMER 2020

SOUTH COUNTY SIREN



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INSIDE:

Safety is our priority
in COVID-19 response

Free online classes and programs



Headquarters

12425 Meridian Avenue S
Everett WA 98208
(425) 551-1200 / www.southsnofire.org

Currently closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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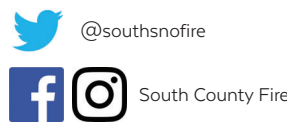
Commissioners

Jim Kenny, Chair
Bob Meador, Vice Chair
Drew Burnett
David Chan
Mark Laurence
Chris Teofilak
Greg Urban

Interim Fire Chief

Thad Hovis

Connect with us



Board of Commissioners Meetings

Regular Meetings: first and third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
Work sessions: second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
All meetings are open to the public. All meetings are currently being held remotely using Zoom teleconferencing. Zoom meeting login, agendas, minutes and videos are available at www.southsnofire.org/meetings.

Fire Stations

All fire stations are fully staffed and operational, but are closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Fire Station 10
Keeler's Corner**
3922 156th Street SW
Lynnwood WA 98087

**Fire Station 11
Mariner**
12310 Meridian Avenue S
Everett WA 98208

**Fire Station 12
Hilton Lake**
3525 108th Street SE
Everett WA 98208

**Fire Station 13
Silver Firs**
13611 Puget Park Drive
Everett WA 98208

**Fire Station 14
Lynnwood Blue Ridge**
18800 68th Avenue W
Lynnwood WA 98037

**Fire Station 15
Lynnwood Civic Center**
18800 44th Avenue W
Lynnwood WA 98036

**Fire Station 16
Edmonds Maplewood**
8429 196th Street SW
Edmonds WA 98026

**Fire Station 17
Edmonds Downtown**
275 Sixth Avenue N
Edmonds WA 98020

**Fire Station 18
Brier**
21206 Poplar Way
Brier WA 98036

**Fire Station 19
Mountlake Terrace**
5902 232nd Street SW
Mountlake Terrace WA 98043

**Fire Station 20
Edmonds Esperance**
23009 88th Avenue W
Edmonds WA 98026

**Fire Station 21
Martha Lake**
16819 13th Avenue W
Lynnwood WA 98037

**Fire Station 22
Hilltop**
20510 Damson Road
Lynnwood WA 98036

**Fire Station 23
Lake Serene**
4323 Serene Way
Lynnwood WA 98087

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Make safety part of your July 4 plans



By Commissioner
Jim Kenny

Independence Day is the Fourth of July – food, fun, and fireworks. Fireworks can be exciting, but they can also be dangerous. Fireworks hurt people, burn down homes, and destroy property. Property loss in South County Fire due to fireworks has totaled more than \$3.5 million since 2005. During that time, fireworks have caused fires that have displaced at least 15 households or families from seven homes and eight apartments.

Fireworks also fill the air with smoke, litter the ground with shredded paper and cardboard, and pollute our soil and streams with chemicals. The loud explosions from fireworks can scare people and pets. Our neighborhoods do not have to be this way. We can choose to celebrate in other ways with a lesser impact on our neighbors. We encourage you to attend community fireworks displays put on by professionals. These shows are enjoyable and safe. It will be harder to find such shows this year due to coronavirus cancellations, so you will need to plan ahead. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.

If you still choose to use your own fireworks, we urge you to exercise close adult supervision of children. Every year children get burned by fireworks – even sparklers – because adults did not supervise their children.

The Fourth of July is, unfortunately, one of our busiest days of the year. We are here if you need us, but you can make our job easier and the community safer if you choose to avoid the personal use of fireworks. We want you to have fun, but we also want to prevent fires and injuries. Celebrate America's independence, and stay safe this Fourth of July!



CELEBRATE SAFELY

Respect city firework bans

Fireworks are banned in all cities within our service area:

- Brier
- Edmonds
- Lynnwood
- Mountlake Terrace

In unincorporated areas, keep it safe and legal

Fireworks are allowed on July 4 only from 9 a.m. to midnight.

Use only legal fireworks approved by the state and purchased from county-licensed retail stands or tents. Do not use illegal fireworks including firecrackers, skyrockets and missiles, bottle rockets, M-80s and explosive devices.

Keep fireworks away from children. Don't let children play with or ignite fireworks and make sure they stay a safe distance from lit fireworks.

Keep water close. Have a garden hose and bucket of water nearby. Soak spent and unused fireworks for several hours before discarding.

Fireworks complaints

Non-emergency line, 425-407-3999:

Noise complaints and illegal fireworks **when there is no fire, no injury and no immediate threat.**

Call 911:

Emergencies and situations where there is **an immediate threat to life or property, including a fire or injuries.**



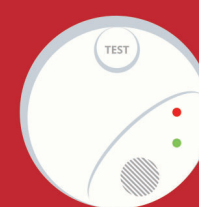
PUSH-IN: Firefighters welcome new engines with traditional ceremony



South County Fire recently held traditional push-in ceremonies to welcome two new fire engines to service. This engine went in service at Martha Lake Fire Station 21 on June 10. An identical engine was placed in service at Maplewood Fire Station 16 in Edmonds on June 18. The push-in ceremony dates back more than 100 years to the days of horse-drawn equipment. When returning to the station, firefighters had to unhitch the horse team and "push in" the fire wagon.

Did you know . . .

Smoke alarms more than 10 years old should be replaced





Online classes and programs

South County Fire community outreach programs are going online during the COVID-19 outbreak. Virtual programs are free and require internet access via a smart phone, tablet or computer. Register online for all classes.

MORE INFORMATION ON ALL PROGRAMS:
www.southsnofire.org/education

ACT First Aid: This one-hour video-conference class teaches three skills to save a life: Antidote for suspected opiate overdose, CPR for cardiac arrest and Tourniquet for severe bleeding control.

Child Car Seat Safety Class: Car seats can be confusing. This video-conference class teaches you how to properly use your car seat from birth to adult seat belts.

Child Car Seat Checks: Offered by appointment, virtual car seat checks are provided by a certified child passenger safety technician using Zoom or Facetime.

Preparedness for Families: Learn how to prepare and care for your family in a disaster in this one-hour video-conference training.

Kids Online Fire Camp: Register online for this free camp coming up July 13-17. Each day you'll receive an e-mail with activities and video messages from firefighters. Complete activities each day for a chance to win a prize.

Kids Fire Academy: Fun and educational activities are posted at www.southsnofire.org/KidsAcademy. Collect all six Fire Safety Awards to become an official graduate.

Virtual EMS Open House: Video topics include Touring a Medic Unit, High-performance CPR Demonstration: Lifesaving Teamwork, Training With SIMMAN and What is a Community Paramedic?

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Safety remains our highest priority

Safety is our priority as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in January with our transport of the first known patient in the United States, South County Fire has worked closely with public health officials and looked at the latest science to guide our response to keep our community and responders safe.

We are also working closely with other fire agencies in Snohomish County. Early on, we came together to establish a Fire Operations Center based at South County Fire Headquarters to provide unified tracking, planning and response to the outbreak to better serve all our communities. We continue to work with these partners and the Snohomish County Emergency Coordination Center.



Chiefs and officers from multiple county fire agencies work together in the Fire Operations Center based at South County Fire to provide a unified response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Serving our most vulnerable populations during the pandemic

Our community paramedic team provides non-emergency assistance to frequent 911 callers, including many older adults and others considered most vulnerable to the coronavirus. The team is reaching out to clients and others who may be at-risk during the pandemic to connect them with resources to help.

Connecting safely with telehealth: South County Fire recently received a \$10,000 grant to launch a telehealth program so community paramedics can safely connect with clients during the COVID-19 outbreak.

SAFE Team: Community paramedics participated in a SAFE Team coordinated by Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management to save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness in our community. The team composed of doctors, community paramedics, social workers and law enforcement visited encampments to assess individuals for COVID-19 symptoms and connect them with services as needed.

Need extra help during the pandemic? If you or someone you know needs a little extra help during the pandemic, our community paramedics and outreach team can connect you with services including food, transportation, doctor visits, prescriptions and more. This is a free service for residents of south Snohomish County. **TO SIGN UP OR LEARN MORE, LEAVE A VOICEMAIL FOR OUR OUTREACH TEAM AT 425-320-5800.**

New precautions on 911 medical calls



The COVID-19 outbreak has changed the way firefighters respond to 911 medical calls. When we arrive, one firefighter will come to the door dressed in protective gear: mask, gown, gloves and goggles. This firefighter will ask a few questions before entering — this is called “door triage.” If necessary, additional firefighters will enter wearing protective gear. We may also ask you to wear a mask. This is for both your safety and ours. It does not mean the patient has COVID-19.

Preserving PPE using UV light sanitizers



As first responders across the nation cope with limited supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), we looked for innovative ways to extend the life of the gear our first responders need to safely serve the community. We're now using ultraviolet (UV) light units to disinfect N-95 respirator face masks, enabling firefighters to safely reuse masks a limited number of times. The UV sanitizers are also used to clean portable radios, cell phones and other items firefighters use daily.

Disinfecting with electrostatic cleaners



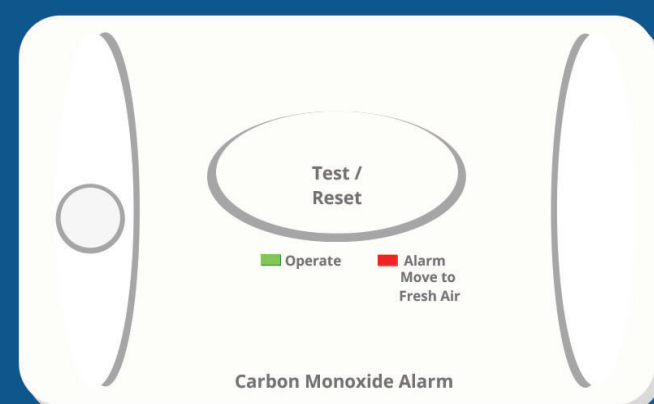
We've added portable electrostatic cleaners to thoroughly and quickly disinfect patient EMS transport vehicles and fire stations. Electrostatic cleaners emit a charge that helps a sprayed cleaning solution cover all sides of an object, without touching or wiping.

Commissioners are now meeting via teleconference

Due to limits on in-person meetings put in place during the COVID-19 emergency, all South County Fire Board of Commissioners meetings are being held remotely using Zoom teleconferencing until further notice. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the first, second and third Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Zoom meeting identification and login information, agendas, minutes and videos are available online at www.southsnofire.org/meetings.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas.



Replace your CO alarm if:

- It was installed in or before 2013. Alarms generally have a 7-year lifespan.
- It is beeping every 30 seconds, indicating it has reached its end of life. Some alarms differ. Refer to manufacturer's instructions.

Go outside and call 911 if:

- The alarm is beeping continuously, which could indicate CO is present.
- You feel sudden signs of CO poisoning such as dizziness, headache, vomiting or flu-like symptoms.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chief Dahl retires after 34 years of service

South County Fire Chief Doug Dahl retired March 31 after nearly 34 years in the fire service. Chief Dahl spent all but the early years of his fire service career in south Snohomish County. He was hired by the Edmonds Fire Department in 1989 and moved up through the ranks as local fire departments consolidated to form South County Fire. He took on the duties of Fire Chief for the regional fire authority last spring.



Dahl served in leadership roles on many fire-related county boards and committees. He also served on interagency incident management teams deployed regionally and nationally to wildland fires and other major disasters including Hurricane Michael in Florida in 2018.

Last year, South County Fire presented Dahl with the Meritorious Service Award, honoring his exceptional professionalism throughout his career and dedication to the best interest of the residents and employees of the regional fire authority.

Five new volunteers join Fire Corps

Five new volunteers have joined the ranks of our Fire Corps: Robin Boyer, Chris Hayes, Nickita “Nick” Tucker, Judy Underhill and Merle Wong. They join a team of eight volunteers, some with a long record of community service predating the 2017 formation of the regional fire authority: Rojean Backman, Carrie Baldwin, Nancy Dungeon, Asa Louis, Betty McAuley, Wini Neill, Alan Park and Sara Trimble.

Fire Corps volunteers serve the community and assist in promoting public safety in a variety of ways including fire and injury prevention education, assisting at community events and other programs to fit their skills and interest.

Learn more about becoming a Fire Corps volunteer at www.southsnofire.org/FireCorps.

Firefighters team up with Make-A-Wish to surprise 3-year-old boy with a Fire Truck Parade



South County Fire and Make-A-Wish teamed up to honor 3-year-old Eli Kincaid with a fire truck parade at his Lynnwood home on May 19. Eli loves fire engines and firefighters. Make-A-Wish reached out to South County Fire to help do something special for Eli after his wish to go to Disney World was postponed. Eli, the son of Tyler and Jill Kincaid, was 18 months old when he was diagnosed with Alexander Disease, a rare genetic disorder that affects the brain.



The pandemic doesn't stop recruits from completing the fire academy

Our 10 new recruits successfully completed fire academy training on April 29. It's difficult under normal circumstances, but this class had the added pressure of staying focused to meet the physical and mental challenges of the academy amid a pandemic. Congratulations to Tyler Ackley, Kris Cruse, Nick Davey, Alex Furlan, Corey Herman, Luke Hoffman, Kirsten Mathers, Michael Mazur, Riley Oakes and Leo Rosa. They are now working at your neighborhood fire stations.