

SPRING 2021

SOUTH COUNTY **SIREN**

SERVING SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY • BRIER • EDMONDS
LYNNWOOD • MOUNTLAKE TERRACE



INSIDE:
Firefighters help with
the county's vaccination effort

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Avenue S
Everett WA 98208



SERVING SOUTH
SNOHOMISH COUNTY
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CLASSES

*All classes are free,
offered via Zoom and just 1 hour*

CAR SEAT CLASS: Learn how to properly use your car seat to protect your child from birth to the adult seat belt.
May 5, 6 p.m. / May 19, 1 p.m. / June 2, 6 p.m. / June 16, 1 p.m.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Learn how to prepare and care for your family in a disaster.
May 12, 6 p.m.

ACT FIRST AID & CPR: Learn three skills to save a life: Antidote for opioid overdose, CPR for sudden cardiac arrest and Tourniquet for bleeding control.
May 19, 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. / June 16, 1 p.m. or 6 p.m.

AGING IN PLACE: Learn how to help your loved ones as they age and find out about programs to help them age in place in their own home.
May 26, 6 p.m.

HOME FIRE SAFETY: In a fire, every second counts. Learn about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, preventing fires and injuries, and what to do in a fire.
June 9, 6 p.m.

CHILD SAFETY & CPR: Learn child CPR and how to keep little ones safe at home, at play, and on the road.
June 23, 6 p.m.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE:
www.southsnofire.org/classes

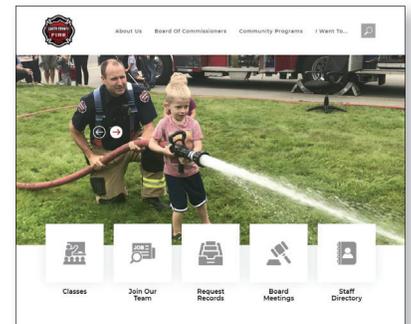
NEW TO ZOOM?

We can help you get started. Email outreach@southsnofire.org or call 425-320-5800

Visit our new website

It's built with you in mind

South County Fire has a new website designed to make it easier for you to use and quickly find just what you're looking for. With an updated, modern color scheme, the site features mobile-friendly buttons and design to help you access our most requested services and resources.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS is a hub of outreach services including safety classes, home safety visits, services for older adults and activities for kids.

AN ADDRESS LOOKUP on the homepage lets you enter your address to find out about your neighborhood fire station, fire marshal, outdoor burning and fireworks bans.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS information includes listings for your elected officials and meeting information including agendas, documents and videos from past meetings.

I WANT TO ... This new section can help you quickly find what you need with direct links to our most frequently requested resources for visitors who want to contact, request, report, view or get help with a specific need.

www.southsnofire.org

CONNECT WITH US



@southsnofire



South County Fire

Vaccine, hope & lots of smiles

Firefighters and staff share what they like about helping with vaccinations

South County Fire has been part of the massive effort to vaccinate our communities against COVID-19 in partnership with the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce.

More than 40 firefighters and staff from South County Fire have been part of this effort, working days between fire station shifts and other duties.



**Firefighter/EMT
Jaret Vosburgh**

"I feel like I'm making a difference using the skills I've developed as a firefighter/EMT. If people are nervous about getting a shot, I can take a few minutes to tell them it's OK and help them calm down."



**Outreach Manager
Shawneri Guzman**

"It has been gratifying to help residents to get vaccinated, especially those who struggle most navigating the process."



**Community Paramedic
Craig O'Neill**

"I've talked to people who haven't been out of the house in a year. They're so appreciative. Probably the best was getting a hug from an autistic adult who came with his mom to get vaccinated."



**Community Paramedic
Captain Nicole Picknell**

"I love that people are happy. It's a huge community effort so people can hug again, go out again and feel safe again."



Firefighter/EMT Nick Welch (left)

"As firefighters, we typically interact with the public when they have a problem, so it's fun to do this. Everyone gets into this job to help people and this is a different way to do that."

Firefighter/EMT Sergio Carrillo (right)

"I vaccinated an older lady who started crying because she was so happy she'll finally be able to see her grandkids after a year. It's heart-warming and exciting to see that."

Getting vaccinated

Appointments at mass vaccination sites are available through the county:

ONLINE at bit.ly/snocovaccine. Appointment availability may be limited, based on vaccine supply.

BY PHONE FOR THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET:

Register through the county's COVID-19 Call Center, 425-339-5278 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Staff can assist with registering for an appointment, connecting to transportation resources, and troubleshooting other barriers to vaccine access.

South County Fire is not scheduling appointments or providing vaccinations at our fire stations or facilities.

Still in the fight

From meeting response challenges to vaccinating against COVID-19, the fire service is doing amazing work



South County Firefighter/Paramedic Janette Anderson, left, and Firefighter Jaret Vosburgh, far right, work with an Everett firefighter to provide vaccinations at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds drive-thru site in Monroe.



By Commissioner Mark Laurence

FROM DAY 1, your firefighters have been on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting with the transport of the first known patient in the United States in January 2020, and through the year of uncertainty that followed, the men and women of South County Fire have risen to the challenge.

Firefighters at your neighborhood stations have done a phenomenal job. Even as we were still learning about the virus, they were responding around the clock to 911 calls, donning layers of protective gear and taking other precautions to protect the public and themselves.

Chief officers, administrators and staff at all levels have worked behind the scenes supporting our firefighters: tracking response data, monitoring the latest science, and working with county emergency coordinators and fire service partners to secure supplies of personal protective gear and develop contingency plans to keep our work force healthy and our emergency response system up and running as COVID-19 cases surged. For many, this has been like having another job on top of their regular duties.

Now the fire service is on the front line of a new challenge: vaccinating our community against COVID-19. All 23 county fire agencies are working together to support the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce mass vaccination clinics and mobile vaccination teams operating under the guidance of the Snohomish Health District and the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management.

Getting people vaccinated as safely and quickly as possible is a huge undertaking and the fire service is playing a lead role. Doctors, pharmacies and others we normally call on just don't have the capacity to do it alone. Recognizing this would be a problem, the fire service was part of the County Vaccine Taskforce effort started last fall to develop plans to handle a surge in demand for vaccine.

Our firefighters became a key part of the solution in October when the state Department of Health approved emergency medical technicians and paramedics to provide inoculations during a declared emergency. We have 1,700 of these trained professionals right here in Snohomish County.

When vaccine became available, the fire service was prepared to support the Vaccine Taskforce in standing up drive-thru operations. Each drive-thru site relies on 8 to 18 firefighters, working alongside community healthcare partners and volunteers. At full capacity, a site can provide between 2,000 and 4,000 vaccinations a day. County fire agencies share in site staffing so the burden doesn't fall too heavily on any one department. All fire agencies combined have logged more than 8,000 hours at these sites. Over 40 South County Fire firefighters and staff members have been part of this effort to date. Sites supported by the fire service had provided 115,980 vaccinations through April 12 - about 30% of the doses administered in the county.

I can tell you from my experience getting vaccinated at a drive-thru site that it was a smooth process once I got past the online registration. Drive-thru sites are open at Edmonds College, Arlington Airport, Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe and Boom City in Marysville as vaccine is available. Planners have been trying to find another site closer to home for those of us in the south end of the county. The challenge is finding a place with enough open space to accommodate a drive-thru operation without impacting traffic in our densely developed service area.

For the homebound and at-risk residents in our community with no other way to get vaccinated, we have a mobile vaccination team of firefighters and outreach staff. This team is also providing vaccinations at senior centers and senior housing. To date, the team has vaccinated more than 3,000 people in our service area.

I'm proud of the exceptional work our firefighters and staff have done during this pandemic. These folks tend to be humble. They'll tell you they're just doing their job. I will tell you it's so much more - it's doing their work, and then taking on even more to get us through this. They won't toot their own horn, so I'm happy to have this opportunity to do it for them. Thank you to our entire South County Fire team - staff and frontline responders. Your service to our community during the pandemic has been and continues to be amazing.

Mobile vaccination team at work in our community

To date, more than 3,000 vaccinations have been provided by our mobile team serving homebound residents, adult family homes, senior centers and senior housing facilities in southwest Snohomish County.



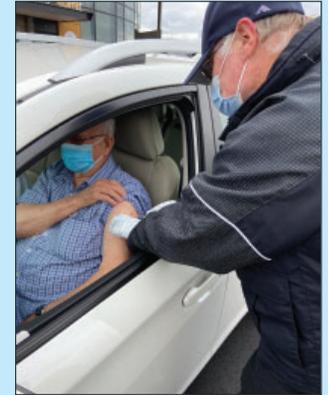
LYNNWOOD: Firefighter Steve Matadobra vaccinates Deborah Brookbank at a clinic organized by the Lynnwood Senior Center.



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE SENIOR CENTER: Neal Foozer receives his vaccination from Captain Nicole Picknell.



SENIOR MOBILE HOME PARKS: Firefighter/Paramedic Candy Hanson vaccinates Eleanor Higman at Mariner Village.



EDMONDS SENIOR CENTER: Veteran in Prevention Kim Sharpe vaccinates James Nelson at the Waterfront Center.

Car-pedestrian collisions

Where crashes happen and tips on how to prevent them



The majority of car-pedestrian collisions in our county occur in the area we serve in southwest Snohomish County.

South County Fire will be teaming up with the Lynnwood Police Department and the Snohomish County Target Zero Task Force for a campaign of education and enforcement in one of our top trouble spots for car-pedestrian collisions: 196th Street SW between I-5 and Highway 99.

Pedestrian injuries declined following a similar campaign conducted in partnership with Target Zero and the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office in the Mariner High School neighborhood south of Everett. This is a trend that continues in the area today.

TOP 4 TROUBLE SPOTS:

- ▶ Highway 99 and 220th Street SW
- ▶ Highway 99 and Airport Road
- ▶ 164th Street SW near I-5
- ▶ 196th Street SW between I-5 and Highway 99

Drivers:

- ▶ Be on the lookout for unpredictable pedestrians. As you approach pedestrians, slow down and anticipate they may walk in front of you.
- ▶ Stay off your phone. Distracted driving is a major cause of pedestrian crashes.
- ▶ Watch for school zones and slow down when there are children present.
- ▶ Pay attention to crosswalks. Stop for pedestrians.

Pedestrians:

- ▶ Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.
- ▶ Cross at intersections and street corners in marked crosswalks.
- ▶ Be seen. Wear bright colors or a reflective vest. Many pedestrian collisions occur at night or when driver visibility is low in fog or mist.
- ▶ Take off headphones and stay off the phone. You may not hear approaching cars.

5 STEPS to take now to prepare for fire season

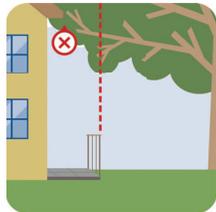
May 1 is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. We may not see wildland fires on the same scale as those in rural areas of Eastern Washington, but experts expect the risk of wildfire west of the Cascades to increase with climate change and population growth. Under the right weather conditions, west-side fires can be fast-moving. This happened last September in suburban Pierce County where four homes were destroyed by the Sumner Grade fire that burned more than 500 acres.

The potential danger zones lie in the places where homes meet or intermingle with undeveloped areas of woods and vegetation. In our service area, this includes greenbelts, parks, ravines and utility easements.



Preparedness can help you reduce risks and protect your home and neighborhood from fire.

1. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.



2. Trim branches that overhang your home, porch and deck. Remove dead plants, leaves and branches to at least 10 feet from your home.



3. Move anything that can burn away from your house: firewood piles, construction materials, etc. Clear under porches or decks.

4. Clear lawn debris. Dispose of yard waste and lawn clippings that could be fuel for a fire.



5. Create and practice your home fire escape plan. Just as your home fire escape plan should identify two ways out of every room, your wildland fire escape plan should include two ways out of your neighborhood. Make sure your home has working smoke alarms.

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT WWW.FIREWISE.ORG

Firefighters are preparing too

Firefighters with special wildland training are ready to respond to fires in our service area. They are also deployed as needed to wildfires in the state and region. This provides valuable experience in wildland firefighting and incident management for our crews. A brush truck equipped with specialized wildland gear is based at Martha Lake Fire Station 21 and can respond to fires in wooded and undeveloped areas that can't be accessed with a fire engine. This truck is on loan from Snohomish County Fire District 22 in Getchell.

Benefit charge update and reminder: The benefit charge approved by regional fire authority voters last November appears on 2021 tax statements for property owners in the City of Lynnwood and unincorporated communities. This change lowered your fire levy from \$1.28 to \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The benefit charge for each property depends on its size and use. About 96% of homeowners are paying less or the same for emergency services this year compared to 2020. As a reminder, all benefit charge appeals are due May 1, 2021. For more information, visit our website, www.southsnofire.org/BenefitCharge, or call 425-320-5841.



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

Headquarters is currently closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioners

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

Fire Chief

Thad Hovis

Board of Commissioners meetings are the first, second and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are currently being held remotely using Zoom teleconferencing. Login instructions, agendas, minutes and videos are available at www.southsnofire.org/meetings.

Neighborhood Fire Stations

All stations are fully staffed and responding to 911 calls, but are currently 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 Fire
13611 Puget Park Drive
Everett WA 98208

Fire Station 14 • 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 • Maplewood
8429 196th Street SW
Edmonds WA 98026

Fire Station 17 • Downtown Edmonds
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 • 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