

FALL 2021

SOUTH COUNTY SIREN



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



INSIDE:

Night fires: 3 things to do to help you make a safe escape

Become a community lifesaver with CPR & PulsePoint

Fall classes — all free, online and just one hour

Night fires

3 things to do to help you make a safe escape



This has been a deadly year for house fires in our community. Four people lost their lives and two others were seriously injured. All these fires occurred between 11 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. Nationally, this is when most fire deaths occur – in the middle of the night when people are asleep. Here are three things you can do to help you make a safe escape.

1. Make sure your smoke alarms work.

Smoke alarms save lives by giving you the early warning you need to escape a fire, especially at night. Many people think the sound of fire will wake them, but smoke is deadly – and silent.

- ▶ Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on each level of your home.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms monthly.
- ▶ Replace smoke alarms when they are more than 10 years old or if they don't sound when tested.

2. Close your bedroom door before you go to sleep.

This is more important than ever before because fires have become more dangerous. Synthetic materials in home furnishings and contemporary home layouts allow fire to spread and become toxic much faster. A closed door can slow the spread, reduce toxic smoke levels, decrease temperatures dramatically and make a lifesaving difference.

3. Plan and practice your escape.

If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- ▶ Make a home fire escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss your plan with everyone in your household. Identify at least two ways out of every room, if possible.
- ▶ Designate an outside meeting place, like a tree or mailbox, a safe distance from your house and out front so arriving firefighters know everyone escaped.
- ▶ Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your household at least twice a year.



FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Learn the sounds of fire safety

It's Fire Prevention Month and this year's theme is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," encouraging you to learn the sounds of your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

HEAR A BEEP, GET ON YOUR FEET: Get out, call 911 and stay out if you hear continuous beeping from smoke alarms or CO alarms in your home.

HEAR A CHIRP, MAKE A CHANGE: A chirping smoke alarm or CO alarm – a single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds – means the battery is getting low and needs to be replaced.

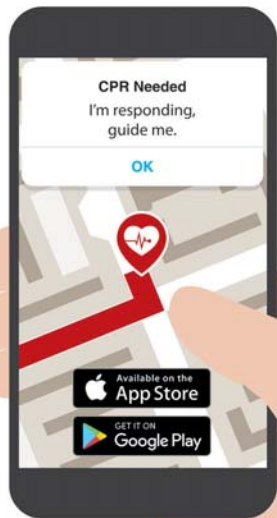
If smoke alarms or CO alarms continue to chirp after the battery has been replaced, the alarm is nearing the end of its life and must be replaced. All smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years. CO alarms may also have "end of life" sounds that vary by manufacturer.

ALARMS FOR THE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING: Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members. Devices are available to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PulsePoint

pulsepoint.org

BE A LIFE SAVER.



App alerts CPR-trained users when someone near needs aid

Early CPR and defibrillation can dramatically increase survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest. You can become a community lifesaver by learning CPR and downloading PulsePoint, a free mobile app.

PulsePoint is now available in our county thanks to a grant from the Medic One Foundation. The app uses location-based technology to alert CPR-trained users to a nearby cardiac arrest.

App users can voluntarily respond to the alert and start CPR in the critical lifesaving minutes before firefighters arrive. PulsePoint also directs potential rescuers to the location of the nearest Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Download PulsePoint for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Follow the prompts to “follow” South Snohomish County Fire.

Learn CPR in our free online class

Hands-only CPR is one of three lifesaving skills you’ll learn in our free online ACT First Aid class. Learn more and register online at www.southsnofire.org/ACT.

Help us find AEDs in our community

AEDs are often located in schools, libraries, businesses and public gathering places. Help us identify AED locations in our community by registering with PulsePoint. This information is shared with 911 dispatchers so they can direct bystanders to the AED location during a cardiac emergency. Register AEDs using the free PulsePoint AED Registry app or online at AED.new.



UPDATE on the fireworks ban

This marked the first July 4 for fireworks to be banned throughout our service area. The ban was new in unincorporated communities we serve, but the cities we serve have had bans in place for several years now.

So how did it go?

We will start with the good news:

- ▶ South County Fire’s 911 call volumes were down.
- ▶ No structure fires were reported.
- ▶ No fireworks injuries were reported.

Top concerns from the public

We heard concerns from many residents in neighborhoods where fireworks use was still booming despite the ban.

Why are fireworks being sold in an area where they are banned? This tops the list of concerns from residents in the unincorporated area. This happened because the county’s ordinance bans fireworks use, but not sales in the Southwest Urban Growth Area. Banning fireworks sales would require action by the Snohomish County Council.

Lack of enforcement: We will continue to work with our county and city law enforcement partners to educate the public about the penalties and fines for violating fireworks bans. We supported extra sheriff’s patrols in the unincorporated area during this first year of the ban.

Reporting fireworks complaints: Calls to the non-emergency line were up nearly 87% on July 4 and some callers couldn’t get through. Extra staffing at Snohomish County 911 wasn’t enough to keep up with that heavy call volume. We are working with the 911 dispatch center on alternative reporting options for next Fourth of July.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



By Commissioner
Bob Meador

Looking back at nearly 50 years of fire service

For nearly 50 years, I've been a part of the fire service in southwest Snohomish County – as a firefighter, a fire chief and an elected official. As my final term as a commissioner is drawing to a close, I want to highlight some of the changes I've seen and also encourage you to get involved in community service.

Enterprise Newspaper, 1973



Bob Meador, second from left, was a Lynnwood firefighter in the area's first EMT class.

Emergency medical services

When I was hired as a firefighter with the Lynnwood Fire Department in 1972, it would've been hard to imagine a day when 85% of our calls would be EMS. Back then, we provided basic first aid. We did CPR, but we didn't even carry oxygen. At that time, not all fire departments in the country embraced the move to EMS, but those in our county did.

In 1973, a group of local firefighters, including myself, were trained as the area's first emergency medical technicians. Our first paramedic service, Medic 7, started in 1979, and over the next decade, we moved toward firefighter/paramedics. Today, our EMS program has been nationally recognized for excellence in providing lifesaving care as well as innovations such as our community paramedic program.

Equipment and technology

The fire service has had to keep up with changes in the equipment and technology that firefighters use and encounter as they respond to emergencies. Modern building construction and vehicle designs, for instance, have led to changes in firefighting and rescues. We also find ourselves purchasing equipment that we never thought we would ever need, such as bullet-proof vests.



Firefighter safety

Improving firefighter safety has been a major undertaking. Shortly before I started my career, the first-in engine didn't have breathing apparatus. Firefighters would come straight off the truck and go in with a hose to try to knock down the fire. Those old guys didn't live very long. They took in a lot of smoke and paid the price. Today, departments have made safety a priority and it has produced results, reducing the firefighter mortality rate.

Fire service regionalization

During my 10 years as fire chief of the Lynnwood Fire Department and my 20 years as a fire commissioner, I've always been an advocate for fire service consolidation and I still am. As a regional fire authority, we now provide a higher level and greater range of services, including expanded safety education, community paramedics and community risk reduction.

None of this would have been possible without the support we've seen over the years from the community. We are fortunate to live in an area where the public appreciates and has consistently supported this high level of service.

One thing I worry about is the lack of people willing to run for public office and contribute. It's about making a difference. You need to participate to make a difference.

As a commissioner, I have always tried to look at each issue from the general public's point of view, not as a retired fire chief. I ask myself this question: What does my neighbor think? We are representatives of the people, and we can't lose sight of that.

Through all the challenges and changes, I've always been focused on making fire service better for the people of southwest Snohomish County. I am a big fan of our regional fire authority and a big fan of our staff. As I end my tenure in the fire service and on the Board of Commissioners, I can confidently say we are in good hands.

MAYDAY

Firefighters train for a day they hope will never come

Mayday. It's a word no one wants to hear on a fire scene. It means firefighters are in danger - lost, injured, trapped or missing.

South County Fire crews recently completed a series of drills to help them prepare mentally and physically for the challenges of rescuing a fellow firefighter.

Lessons were drawn from Project Mayday, a comprehensive study of real-life mayday responses, incidents and prevention.



Teaming up to promote safety in high car-pedestrian collision zones

South County Fire teamed up with Edmonds Police Department, Lynnwood Police Department and Snohomish County Target Zero during the month of September to focus on safety in busy corridors where car-pedestrian collisions are on the rise.

The project included education and enforcement emphasis on 196th Street SW, the Lynnwood Transit Center area, 76th Avenue W and Highway 99 between 196th Street SW and 212th Street SW.

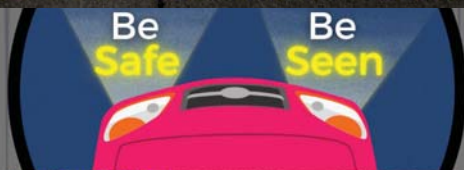
Wherever you are traveling, remember responsibility is a two-way street for drivers and pedestrians when it comes to preventing collisions.

RESPONSIBILITY IS A 2-WAY STREET



Pedestrian Safety

- Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially at night or early morning.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing.
- Whenever possible, cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.



Driver Safety

- Watch for pedestrians at all times.
- Pay attention to crosswalks or other natural areas pedestrians may try to cross.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk.



HEADQUARTERS

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

Headquarters and stations are 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 Falls

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

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Avenue S
Everett WA 98208



SERVING SOUTH
SNOHOMISH COUNTY
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LYNNWOOD • MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

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FALL CLASSES

Free, online and all just one hour!

CAR SEAT CLASS: Learn how to properly use your car seat to protect your child from birth to the adult seat belt.
Nov. 3, 6 p.m. / Nov. 18, 1 p.m. / Dec. 1, 6 p.m. / Dec. 15, 1 p.m.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Learn how to prepare and care for your family in a disaster.
Nov. 10, 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.
Nov. 17, 1 p.m. / Nov. 17, 6 p.m. / Dec. 15, 1 p.m. / Dec. 15, 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.
Nov. 24, 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.
Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

CHILD SAFETY & CPR: Learn child CPR and how to keep little ones safe at home, at play, and on the road.
Oct. 27, 6 p.m. / Dec. 22, 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



Tragically, our county has seen more sleep-related deaths in infants and toddlers in the first six months of 2021 than we typically see in an entire year.

Learning about safe sleep for babies is important for all caregivers, not just parents. Simple actions can make a big difference and reduce baby's risk.

Follow the ABCs of Safe Sleep

- A** Baby sleeps **ALONE** in their own crib, but in the same room as you.
- B** Baby sleeps on their **BACK** for naps and bedtime.
- C** Baby sleeps in a **CRIB** free of blankets, pillows, bumpers, toys and bottles.

LEARN MORE about safe sleep in our free online Child Safety & CPR Class. Sign up at www.southsnofire.org/classes.

CONNECT WITH US



@southsnofire



South County Fire