

SUMMER 2022

SOUTH COUNTY SIREN

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



INSIDE:

3 things to know about fireworks

Impact Teen Drivers free online workshop

Innovative program expands service for our most vulnerable residents

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Avenue S
Everett WA 98208



SERVING SOUTH
SNOHOMISH COUNTY
BRIER • EDMONDS
LYNNWOOD • MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO.1193

CLASSES

Free, online & 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.
June 8, 6 p.m. • June 15, 1 p.m. • July 6, 6 p.m. • July 20, 1 p.m. • Aug. 3, 6 p.m. • Aug. 17, 1 p.m. • Sept. 7, 6 p.m. • Sept. 21, 1 p.m.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Learn how to prepare and care for your family in a disaster.
July 13, 6 p.m. • Sept. 14, 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.
July 27, 10 a.m. • Sept. 28, 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 22, 6 p.m. • Aug. 24, 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



10,000+ trained in ACT First Aid!

Thanks to your support we reached our goal of more than 10,000 people trained in ACT First Aid & CPR!

ACT teaches three skills to make a lifesaving difference in the minutes before emergency responders arrive:

- A:** Antidote for opioid overdose
- C:** CPR and AED for sudden cardiac arrest
- T:** Tourniquet and wound packing for bleeding control

Become a community lifesaver

Register for this free, 1-hour, online class at www.southsnofire.org/ACT.

CLASS SCHEDULE: June 15, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. • July 20, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Aug. 17, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Sept. 21, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.



NEW! Impact Teen Drivers workshops

South County Fire is offering two free online Impact Teen Drivers workshops for teens and parents to attend together. The focus is on reducing reckless and distracted driving – the top killer of teens. You'll learn about licensing laws, distractions to driving, seat belts, speed and the importance of role modeling good behaviors behind the wheel.

**June 23
12 p.m. & 6 p.m.**

Register in advance
www.southsnofire.org/ImpactDrivers

CONNECT WITH US



@southsnofire



South County Fire

Daniels and Rowland join Board of Commissioners

Derek Daniels and Micah Rowland have been appointed to fill two vacant seats on the South County Fire Board of Commissioners.



DEREK DANIELS was appointed to an at-large commissioner seat. A lifelong resident of south Snohomish County, Daniels is a financial business IT consultant. He holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems from Eastern Washington University.



MICAH ROWLAND was the board's choice to fill the vacant fire commissioner seat in Election District 4 in the Mariner/Lake Stickney area. A 15-year resident of Snohomish County, Rowland has served as a volunteer and a board member for community, local and state organizations. He has over 20 years of experience working in technology and consulting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Thanks for supporting your emergency service

I want to start this message by thanking you for supporting South County Fire. Your support allows us to serve you with one of the most advanced emergency response systems in the state.



Fire Chief
Thad Hovis

We recognize inflation is high and likely impacting your household budget. Drawing from what we learned during the last recession, we prepared for this type of "emergency." This foresight means we have adequate reserves to maintain service levels and will not be requesting a tax increase on your election ballot this fall.

We also want to welcome City of Mill Creek residents to the South County Fire family. Mill Creek voters approved annexation into our regional fire authority (RFA) during a special election in April. South County Fire plans to ask our contract cities (Brier, Mountlake Terrace, and Edmonds) to also annex into the RFA in the future.

The current contracts do not provide for staffing increases or long-term planning for emergency services. Annexing guarantees all property owners within the RFA receive the same levels of service for the same rate. It also ensures city residents have a vote for representation on the fire board of commissioners.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. We are proud to serve you.



New compact thermal imaging cameras aid in search and rescue

Your firefighters have a new tool to help them save lives and protect property: a personal thermal imaging camera (TIC).

TICs use infrared technology to detect heat and convert it to a visual image to help firefighters

do their jobs. The new compact lightweight TICs are secured to a firefighter's bunker gear by a retractable tether for easy access.

Putting this technology in the hands of every firefighter:

- ▶ Greatly reduces the time it takes to search for and rescue fire victims
- ▶ Increases the likelihood of escape if a firefighter experiences an emergency in a burning building
- ▶ Provides an important read of fire conditions inside a structure
- ▶ Aids in assessing a fire scene for hidden hot spots

Innovative program adds 24-hour response

More help for our most vulnerable residents

South County Fire is expanding its innovative Community Resource Paramedic program to provide 24/7 response to help our most vulnerable residents.

The program, started in 2013, reduces 911 calls and emergency room visits by helping people with complex needs that aren't met by traditional emergency medical services. Community resource paramedics fill this gap by helping patients connect with community resources, navigate social services and coordinate health care. South County Fire received a grant from the Verdant Health Commission for more than \$1 million to expand the program, which until now was staffed on weekdays only.

Program benefits:

Patients get help with complex needs that aren't resolved by frequent 911 calls

Their calls to 911 decline and so do emergency room visits

This helps keep firefighters available for other responses including life-threatening emergencies

the day and, with Verdant funding, the Community Resource Paramedic program can expand to evenings and weekends – often when they are most needed.”

“We are pleased to continue our partnership with South County Fire,” said Dr. Jim Distelhorst, who serves on the Verdant Board of Commissioners. “First responders are in the unique position to help our community members who are in immediate need of support and often are isolated in their homes. We know these calls come in at all hours of



Captain Nicole Picknell and Karen Alvensleben

A small change can make a big difference.

For Karen Alvensleben, it was the addition of a stair rail that proved to be a gamechanger in allowing her to live independently.

Karen was calling 911 for help up to four times a week when firefighters referred her to the Community Resource Paramedic (CRP) program. Many of these calls were related to falls on two small stairs outside her apartment.

CRP Captain Nicole Picknell helped get a stair rail installed so Karen could leave without fear of falling. She also connected Karen with Meals on Wheels, Homage senior services case management and care coordination, transportation options to get to medical appointments and caregiver assistance with small household tasks.

“Every time I see that railing I think of Nicole,” Karen said.

Karen's calls to 911 have dropped to once or twice a year and she has not required advanced care for more than a year.

Meet our Community Resource Paramedics



Captain Nicole Picknell



Janette Anderson



Dani DeVos



Craig O'Neill



Jaret Vosburgh

Fourth of July fireworks

3 things to know

to celebrate safely and legally



1 Fireworks use is banned throughout southwest Snohomish County. This includes the entire South County Fire service area: The cities of Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace as well as unincorporated communities.

2 Attending a professional public display is the safest way to enjoy fireworks. Fireworks shows are planned for July 3 at Lake Ballinger in Mountlake Terrace and July 4 in Everett.

3 For non-emergency fireworks and noise complaints, call 425-407-3999 to help keep 911 lines open for emergencies. Call 911 to report fireworks use when there is a threat to life or property, such as an injury or a fire.

Spread the word about the ban

Fireworks Banned Here yard signs: Free yard signs will be available while supplies last on June 24 and July 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at all South County Fire stations. You can also visit our website to download and print your own signs.

Neighborhood toolkits: Order a free toolkit for your homeowners association, apartment complex or neighborhood. Kits include handouts, yard signs and social media posts to share. Order online by June 23.

LEARN MORE: www.southsnofire.org/fireworks



Training for emergencies in mid-rise buildings

You've probably noticed building heights are going up in southwest Snohomish County. Your firefighters are planning and training for emergency responses in these taller structures.

Firefighters recently conducted drills on fire response plans for buildings with 5-7 stories. The plans require a response of six engine companies, two ladder companies, two aid/medic units, a technical rescue truck, a medical services officer and three chief officers. This totals about 40 firefighters assigned to perform specific firefighting tasks on each floor of the building.



Class 2022-1 graduates from the fire academy

Please join us in congratulating our recruits who recently graduated from the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy after 12 weeks of rigorous training.

They will begin working as probationary firefighters in your neighborhood fire stations soon.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



By Commissioner
Micah Rowland

Make way for safety

As a young kid growing up in a small rural Midwest town, visiting my dad at work was an exciting experience. To this day, I can still remember the smell of coffee, metal, oil and paint that greeted me when I walked in the front door of the auto body repair shop. After visiting his office, I would very quickly figure out a way to go out to the shop floor. I'd rush through the first building, where all sorts of cars and trucks sat in various states of repair, and make a beeline for the "big rig" shop.

That's where they repaired big semi-trucks and, best of all, crashed fire trucks and ambulances. No jungle gym or swing set could compete with those massive red and white playgrounds of my youth. When I was sitting in the driver's seat of a fire engine, I was the luckiest kid alive.

Back then, I never stopped to think about how those emergency vehicles got to be in that auto body shop ... or the lives of those who were injured or killed in those collisions. As a fire commissioner, I was shocked to learn that traffic collisions alone injure thousands of firefighters each year in the United States. More shocking was to find out that collisions are the second leading cause of death for firefighters, killing an average of 1 out of every 5 firefighters lost in the line of duty every year, according to the United States Fire Administration.

It is important for each of us to do our part to reduce these horrible occurrences. That means properly yielding to emergency vehicles when we see or hear them approach, every time.

Washington state law states that "upon the approach of authorized emergency vehicles using audible and visual signals ... every driver must yield the right of way and move to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, and remain there until the emergency vehicle has passed." It is especially important to clear any intersection before pulling over so we aren't blocking the path of a turning emergency vehicle. Failure to do so creates a hazard that puts at risk the lives of ourselves, other drivers, pedestrians and our firefighters.

Pulling over and creating space for our emergency vehicles ensures that they have the room necessary to react to any unforeseen hazards and allows them to reach their destination more quickly and safely. It also shows respect for the important job they do: placing their lives on the line for all of us each and every day.



HEADQUARTERS

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

Headquarters and stations are currently closed to visitors as a precaution due to COVID-19.

Commissioners

Greg Urban, Board Chair
Chris Teofilak, Vice Chair
David Chan
Derek Daniels
Jim Kenny
Mark Laurence
Micah Rowland

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 as a precaution due to COVID-19.

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