

# Your fireworks questions answered



## What are the rules where I live?

It is illegal to discharge fireworks in: Bothell, Brier, Edmonds, Everett, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Woodway and unincorporated Southwest Snohomish County. Violators face hefty fines at a minimum.

## Why do I still see fireworks stands if discharging them is illegal?

Cities in our service area ban the sale AND the use of fireworks.

It's a different story in the unincorporated areas of southwest Snohomish County where a county ordinance bans fireworks use, but still allows sales June 28 through July 5 of each year.

Banning fireworks sales in any unincorporated area in Snohomish County would require action by the Snohomish County Council. The County Council can be contacted by email at [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org) or by calling 425-388-3494.



Fireworks likely played a role in this July 4, 2023, fire in Edmonds. Firefighters stopped flames from spreading into the home.

## How do I report illegal fireworks?

- Call Snohomish County 911's non-emergency line, 425-407-3999, for noise or illegal fireworks complaints with no threat to life or property.
- Call 911 for all emergencies.

Find more information on fireworks at [www.southsnofire.org/fireworks](http://www.southsnofire.org/fireworks).

## Can you spot the fire hydrant in this picture?



If firefighters are unable to quickly find a hydrant near your home, response to a fire could be delayed. During your spring yard cleanup, clear vegetation from around any hydrant on your property. Check from different angles to ensure the hydrant can be easily spotted from the road. **It could save your life or your home.**

### SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Avenue S  
Everett WA 98208



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# SOUTH COUNTY SIREN

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



## SPRING CLASSES

Join a free 1-hour class online

**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 15, 6 p.m. / July 17, 11 a.m.

**CAR SEAT CLASS:** Learn how to properly use your car seat to protect your child from birth to the adult seat belt. May 1, 6 p.m. / May 15, 11 a.m. / June 5, 6 p.m. / June 26, 11 a.m. / July 3, 6 p.m. / July 17, 11 a.m.

**CHILD SAFETY & CPR:** Learn child CPR and how to keep little ones safe at home, at play and on the road. June 26, 6 p.m.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:** Learn how to prepare and care for your family in a disaster. June 12, 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. June 12, 11 a.m.

Visit our website to request a presentation for your group of 20 or more.

Learn more and register:  
[www.southsnofire.org/classes](http://www.southsnofire.org/classes)



EMS Week  
**FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE** | SATURDAY  
MAY 18  
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
Edmonds Downtown Station 17  
275 Sixth Ave. N. Edmonds

Meet your firefighters, learn hands-only CPR and bring in your own special stuffed animal for our Teddy Bear Clinic during this FREE event!

**FREE sleep sacks, window locks, Files of Life and nightlights, while supplies last.**

Learn about:

- Safe sleep
- Window fall prevention
- Car seat safety
- Adult fall prevention

Find information about other upcoming events at [www.southsnofire.org/openhouse](http://www.southsnofire.org/openhouse).



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** Week is May 19.  
Medical calls are nearly **85%** of all South County Fire responses.

**INSIDE** Father shares cardiac arrest survival story | You should NEVER do this in a house fire | Your fireworks questions answered



**CONNECT WITH US**  
[www.southsnofire.org](http://www.southsnofire.org)



South County Fire



@southsnofire





Galen Callahan with Camille and their two sons.

# Grateful heart

Lynnwood father shares cardiac arrest survival story

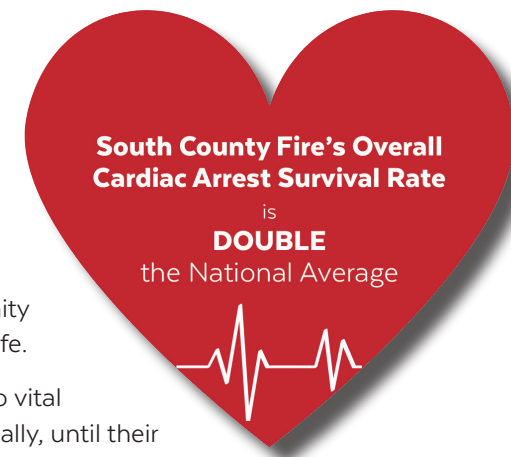
When 35-year-old Galen Callahan started acting strangely one night last May, his wife Camille thought he was joking. Then the father of two stopped breathing.

Camille called 911 and started chest compressions. When South County firefighters arrived minutes later, Galen had a pulse but quickly lost it again. Firefighters shocked him twice with a defibrillator to restart his heart before stabilizing him and rushing him to a hospital.

Just over two months later, Galen and his family walked into Keeler's Corner Fire Station 10 to share their gratitude.

"I am alive thanks to you," Galen said. "My wife and two young boys will continue to have a father and husband, all thanks to you. My parents still have their child, siblings have their brother and my employees still have their jobs, all thanks to you."

Galen's story is one of many contributing to South County Fire's high overall cardiac arrest survival rate - double the national average in 2023.



"Our cardiac save rate continues to be among the highest in the country," said Shaughn Maxwell, Assistant Chief of EMS, Health & Safety. "That means more survivors out of the hospital and back home with their families. This is only possible with a whole community approach, from high-performance CPR delivered by firefighters to bystander CPR provided by family, friends or even strangers."

**"Our cardiac save rate continues to be among the highest in the country."**

Bystander CPR can double or triple someone's chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

South County Fire awarded Camille Callahan a community lifesaver coin for performing CPR, helping save Galen's life.

"CPR compresses the heart, causing blood to circulate to vital organs and keeping a cardiac arrest patient alive, essentially, until their

heart can be restarted," Maxwell said. "We invite everyone to learn hands-only CPR through our free ACT program. It's one hour of your time that could help save someone you love."

Galen is now fully recovered and back to work at his manufacturing business, where he hopes to someday produce life-saving tools for firefighters.

"You guys are true heroes," he said. "Thank you so, so very much."



## Thousands trained to ACT

More than 20,000 people have now been trained in South County Fire's ACT to Save a Life program. ACT is a one-hour class that focuses on three skills you can use to save a life in those first crucial minutes before firefighters arrive:

**Antidote** for suspected opiate overdose.

**Hands-only CPR/AED** for sudden cardiac arrest.

**Tourniquet** for bleeding control.

Assistant Chief Shaughn Maxwell, who developed ACT, and Fire and Life Safety Education Specialist Laurell Sprague, were recently awarded community lifesaver coins for their contributions to the program.

**ACT classes are offered free throughout the year. Sign up at [www.southsnofire.org/ACT](http://www.southsnofire.org/ACT).**

## MEET YOUR FIRE SERVICE FAMILY



**Firefighter/Paramedic Yancey Kangas**  
Mill Creek Station 76

Yancey has served our community for 15 years after previously working as a case manager for unhoused youth.

His favorite thing about being a firefighter? "Working in a high stakes team environment to make people's lives better," he says.



**Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Young**  
Brier Station 18

Josh joined South County Fire six years ago after serving as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter.

He chose this career so he could help people and work at a fast pace. "This is the only thing I've ever wanted to do," he says.



**Firefighter Kirsten Mathers**  
Martha Lake Station 21

Kirsten conducted wilderness rescues with the Mt. Baker Ski Patrol before becoming the first female Technical Rescue Technician at South County Fire.

"It is powerful to see the training pay off to potentially save lives and keep our own crew safe," she says.



**Captain A.J. Johnson**  
Lynnwood Station 15

A.J. lives in Edmonds and wanted to be a firefighter since he was five years old.

He says the best part of being a firefighter is the support of the community. "The trust the public has in us is something we do not take for granted."



**Firefighter Joe Cox**  
Esperance Station 20

Joe grew up in a military family and always wanted to pursue a public service-oriented career.

He started as a volunteer firefighter in East Wenatchee. "I realized this was one of the most challenging and rewarding careers you could have and got hooked," he says.



## NEVER do this in a house fire

Your firefighters share this warning after recently rushing a man to the hospital: **never go back inside a burning building.**

The man suffered smoke inhalation and second degree burns in a December apartment fire. He told firefighters he went back into his apartment during the fire to retrieve belongings, but turned around because it was too hot.

Today's homes burn faster than ever. **So you may have less than three minutes to safely escape a house fire. ONCE YOU'RE OUT, STAY OUT!**

"Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building," said Community Outreach Manager Shawneri Guzman. "If a person or pet is missing, inform the dispatcher when you call 911. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues."

Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Test alarms monthly and replace any alarms older than 10 years.

### 4 STEPS TO CREATE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN:

- Walk through your home with everyone in your household. Determine two ways out of every room, including doors and windows.
- Choose an outside meeting place a safe distance in front of your home, like your neighbor's house, a light post or mailbox.
- Assign someone to help young children, older adults or anyone with mobility issues.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice each year.

LEARN MORE about South County Fire's home safety programs at [www.southsnofire.org/HomeSafety](http://www.southsnofire.org/HomeSafety).

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

### Thank you to retiring Chief Hovis Congratulations Chief Eastman



By Commissioner Edward Widdis

South County Fire has a new fire chief at the helm. Bob Eastman was sworn in on April 2. He replaces Fire Chief Thad Hovis, who is serving as a transitional consultant until his retirement on July 1.

Both men have served the people of south Snohomish County for nearly three decades and came up through the ranks as five local fire agencies combined to become South County Fire. I worked with both men prior to my retirement and it was obvious early on they would become leaders in our fire authority.

Chief Hovis has done an outstanding job leading South County Fire through a time of unprecedented challenges and growth. Most importantly, he leaves a legacy and a culture of supportiveness and excellence in service that has been embraced at all levels within the organization.



I am confident Chief Eastman will continue to lead our regional fire authority in this positive direction. The people of south Snohomish County will be well served by his wealth of experience, knowledge and commitment to delivering quality emergency service.

We are fortunate to have such amazing leaders within our ranks. Thank you and best wishes retiring Chief Hovis and congratulations incoming Chief Eastman!

Outgoing Fire Chief Thad Hovis, left, and incoming Fire Chief Bob Eastman.

### Benefit charge renewal on the ballot in primary election

A proposal to continue the benefit charge for 10 years will be on the ballot in the primary election on August 6.

The benefit charge was approved by voters in 2020 to provide a more fair and balanced way to fund crucial emergency services. Unlike levies based on a property's assessed value, the benefit charge is based on a building's size, risks and hazards. Residential homes pay less than higher risk industrial or commercial buildings. That's because it takes fewer firefighters and fire engines to put out a fire in a house than in a large commercial structure.

With the benefit charge, the maximum fire levy is reduced. The benefit charge is set annually by the Board of Fire Commissioners to support emergency services in the following year. In 2024, the owner of a 2,000-square-foot home paid a benefit charge of \$71.64, which amounts to \$1.27 total increase over four years.

LEARN MORE at [www.southsnofire.org/electioninfo](http://www.southsnofire.org/electioninfo)

The benefit charge does not apply to the City of Edmonds, which receives emergency services through a contract with South County Fire.



**HEADQUARTERS**  
12425 Meridian Avenue S  
Everett WA 98208  
(425) 551-1200  
[www.southsnofire.org](http://www.southsnofire.org)

#### Board of Commissioners

Jim Kenny, Chair  
Mark Laurence, Vice Chair  
David Chan  
Michael Fearnough  
Micah Rowland  
Chris Teofilak  
Edward Widdis

Jesse Hoffman, Mountlake Terrace Liaison  
Paula Swisher, Brier Liaison

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. Meetings are held in person at Headquarters and remotely using Zoom teleconferencing. Login instructions, agendas, minutes and videos are available at [www.southsnofire.org/meetings](http://www.southsnofire.org/meetings).

#### Fire Chief

Bob Eastman

#### Neighborhood Fire Stations

**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 - 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

**Fire Station 76 - Mill Creek**  
1020 153rd Street SE  
Mill Creek WA 98012