

Responding on the WATER

Firefighters have a new 12-foot boat for year-round emergency rescues on Lake Serene.

“With the rising popularity of paddle boards, water rescues are happening further from shore,” said Battalion Chief Dave Ruddell. “This boat creates a fast and stable rescue platform. It also allows us to respond to emergencies when the lake is frozen.”



Firefighters deploy Boat 23 on Lake Serene during a training exercise in June.

Many local waterways maintain cool temperatures through most of the year, making it more difficult to swim, even with a life jacket.

“Always swim with a buddy and always wear a life jacket,” Ruddell said.

South County Fire’s fleet now includes four emergency response boats, with other vessels located at Lake Ballinger, Martha Lake Fire Station 21 and the Port of Edmonds.

Marine 16 is docked at the Edmonds Marina and responds all year to fires, rescues, searches and medical emergencies along Puget Sound.



Is your life jacket the right fit?



Firefighter Nick Welch

1

Check the label. Make sure the size and weight are appropriate for the user. The label should state the life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard approved.



2

Fasten all straps, buckles and zippers. Then gently lift up on the shoulders of the life jacket. If the life jacket hits above the ears, it may be too big or the straps may be too loose.



3

Enjoy the water, but know that life jackets are only a tool. Kids must still be actively supervised in and around the water.

Free life jacket loaner cabinets are open through Labor Day at locations throughout the state. Find a full list by pointing your phone’s camera at the QR code:



SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

12425 Meridian Avenue S
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SUMMER 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.
Aug. 21, 6 p.m.

CAR SEAT CLASS: Learn how to properly use your car seat to protect your child from birth to the adult seat belt.
Aug. 7, 6 p.m. / Aug. 21, 11 a.m.

IMPACT TEEN DRIVING: Learn about graduated driver licensing laws, distractions while driving, seat belts, speed, and the critical importance of role modeling good behaviors behind the wheel.
Aug. 21, 6 p.m.

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

Learn more and register:
www.southsnofire.org/classes

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO: Learn how to prepare and care for your family in different types of emergencies during this free event. Learn lifesaving skills, earn prizes and participate in activities for all ages!

Sept. 21, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Northwest Church, 19820 Scriber Lake Rd., Lynnwood



BECOME A FIRE SAFETY SUPERHERO AT FREE FIRE SAFETY CAMP

Free, fun safety activities for the whole family!

Fire truck visit, firefighter challenge, hands-only CPR, relay races and more! No registration required.

Brier Fire Camp
Aug. 9, 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Brier Park, 2903 228th St. SW

Mountlake Terrace Fire Camp
Aug. 14, 10–11 a.m., Mountlake Terrace Recreation Center, 5303 228th St. SW

Lynnwood Fire Camp
Aug. 15, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Lynndale Park, 18927 72nd Ave. W

Can’t attend camp in person? Check out our Kids Online Fire Camp activities to do at home. Visit www.southsnofire.org/FireCamp.

SUMMER 2024

SOUTH COUNTY SIREN

SERVING SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY • BRIER • EDMONDS
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INSIDE

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- ▶ A window of opportunity that could slow the opioid crisis
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South County Fire



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Community Health Worker Jordan Mohrenne with Captain Keith Sharp

“We know the current model of reviving an overdose patient and sending them to the emergency room is not working.”

24 hours because of how severely sick they are feeling,” said Deputy Chief of EMS Joe Hughes. “By providing short-term relief of those withdrawal symptoms, we can then better engage in conversations around treatment and social services.”

Community Health Worker Jordan Mohrenne will assist patients in navigating those services.

“The path to recovery can involve a complex system,” Mohrenne said. “We have resources to follow up with these patients and help them obtain the tools they need for success.”

This new approach, similar to a program launched in Seattle earlier this year, is made possible by a generous grant from the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance, in collaboration with the University of Washington School of Social Work. South County Fire is one of nine Washington fire departments receiving funds.

“We know the current model of reviving an overdose patient and sending them to the emergency room is not working to stop the cycle,” said Sharp, who added that firefighters sometimes see the same overdose patient twice in one day. “This new tool can help bridge the gap.”



First-ever workshop recruits women to fire service

Dozens of women gathered in June to haul hoses, pry open doors and climb ladders in Snohomish County’s first Future Women in EMS & Fire Workshop.

The event was created by Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue and held at South County Fire’s Training Center. It included female firefighters from across the county providing demonstrations and career advice to more than 30 prospective recruits.

South County Firefighter Jessica Scheuerman helps a workshop participant operate a hose.

Breaking the cycle

Firefighters use new tool against our community’s opioid crisis

A small window of opportunity could help Snohomish County communities make progress against the opioid epidemic. South County Fire will use a \$350,000 grant to work toward breaking the cycle of addiction.

“Firefighters are on the front lines of the opioid epidemic,” Captain Keith Sharp said. “There’s a critical period of time when someone is more willing to get treatment and we’re in a unique position to take advantage of that window.”

First responders administer the drug naloxone to revive an overdose patient. Sharp is overseeing a pilot program that allows South County Fire’s Community Resource Paramedics to also administer buprenorphine, a prescription drug that relieves opioid withdrawal symptoms.

“An overdose patient is at high risk of overdosing again within



This kit containing naloxone is given to patients at high risk of overdosing.

MEET YOUR FIRE SERVICE FAMILY



Captain Skyler Peterson
Maplewood Fire Station

Eight years ago, Skyler started as a firefighter at Station 16 where she is now captain.

“I have a special place in my heart for the Edmonds community,” she says. “I love the people that make up Edmonds and the beautiful area I get to work in.”



Battalion Chief DeVon Ogurkow
Mariner Fire Station

DeVon served 14 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, ranking as Senior Master Sergeant and specializing in medical services.

“I want our community to know we’ll always be there,” he says. “We will risk a lot for you and we are grateful to do so.”



Firefighter Lidong Feng
Lake Serene Fire Station

Lidong became a firefighter after the death of his father in China from a medical emergency. He came to the U.S. at age 19 to pursue his dream.

“We are the people’s helper,” he says. “We are here to solve people’s problems.”



Firefighter Monica Bagnall
Training Division

Monica joined South County Fire after serving as a volunteer firefighter at Sky Valley Fire.

She loves helping people and learning something new every day. “As firefighters, we need to be proficient in a variety of disciplines at a moment’s notice.”



Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Tate
Mountlake Terrace Fire Station

Kyle planned on joining the medical field before a friend introduced him to the fire service more than two decades ago.

“The job can be mentally and physically challenging at times and you can always rely on the people you work with to get you through those challenging times,” he says.

Saving pets is part of the job

Firefighters’ mission to protect lives goes beyond human patients.

In May, firefighters saved Milo, an 8-month-old dog who was home alone when a south Everett apartment caught fire.

Firefighters rescued two other dogs from a Lynnwood house fire in April. In December, firefighters rescued a dog, cats, rabbits and snakes from a house near Eastmont.

“Many of us have pets too, so we know they’re part of your family,” said Firefighter Maggie Matthews, who helped rescue Milo. “In any situation, we are going to give our absolute best effort to save every animal and provide them the best care we can.”

South County Fire’s medical services officer carries special oxygen masks on their vehicle that can more easily fit over an animal’s snout.



Firefighter Maggie Matthews hugs Milo after rescuing him from an apartment fire.

FIREFIGHTERS REMIND EVERYONE:

- ▶ Never go back into a burning building to rescue your pets.
- ▶ Create a home fire escape plan that includes getting people and pets out safely.
- ▶ Firefighters have the tools and training to conduct rescues if needed.



A new brush truck is helping protect South County Fire communities from the increasing threat of wildfires. These fires have sparked close to neighborhoods and in hard-to-access areas, including along I-5.

Responding from Mariner Fire Station, the 4-wheel drive truck holds 450 gallons of water and can pump water from lakes or streams. Firefighters can drive the truck while spraying water at the same time.

CHIEF’S MESSAGE

Benefit charge renewal on your August ballot

As your fire chief, I want to explain an important issue you’ll see on your August 6 primary ballot.

South County Fire is asking you to consider a 10-year renewal of the benefit charge.

A benefit charge provides a fair and balanced approach to distributing emergency service costs. It’s not a tax based on property value. A benefit charge is a fee based on a building’s size, use and hazards.

Residential homes pay less than higher risk commercial or industrial properties because it takes fewer firefighters and fire trucks to put out a house fire than a large commercial structure fire.

Your fire and emergency medical services are funded primarily through a fire levy, an EMS levy and the benefit charge. With the benefit charge, the maximum fire levy is reduced by one-third.

Reauthorizing the benefit charge will allow South County Fire to maintain emergency response times and service levels, train firefighters and purchase equipment.

Thank you for considering this important issue impacting your emergency services and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

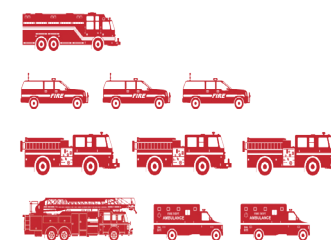
We know you may have other questions about the benefit charge, and we want to answer them. **You can find more information on our website at www.southsnofire.org/electioninfo, email your questions to electioninfo@southsnofire.org or call 425-670-5319.**



By Fire Chief Bob Eastman

It takes more firefighters and fire trucks to put out a large commercial building fire than a house fire.

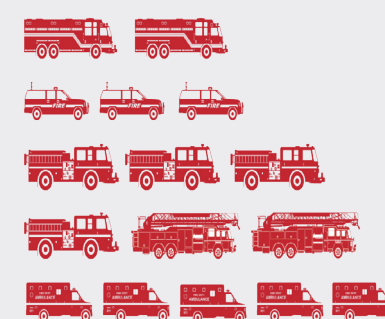
HOUSE FIRE RESPONSE
10 units and 22 firefighters minimum



That’s why residential homes pay less than commercial or industrial properties when it comes to the benefit charge.

When voters first approved the benefit charge in 2020, 95 percent of homeowners paid the same or less than what they paid before.

COMMERCIAL FIRE RESPONSE
16 units and 34 firefighters minimum



In 2024, the owner of a 2,000-square-foot home pays a yearly benefit charge of \$71.64.



HEADQUARTERS
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(425) 551-1200
www.southsnofire.org

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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.

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