

# THE FIRE BELL



Volume 4 Issue 1

June 2019

## A letter from the Chief:

Many challenges face the fire district as our community continues to grow and the demand for service increases. Call volumes have surged in the past several years, with a 12% jump in 2019. The biggest challenge for our department is to maintain available resources for the times when we receive multiple calls. I give all the credit to the incredible men and women of District 26 who volunteer their time to the members of our community. The required training coupled with responding to alarms is an incredible time commitment for each one of them, and their families. I thank them for their dedication to serve our community. I joined this department back in 1976. Back then, we managed to provide fire



Fire District #26 Chief  
Eric Andrews

and EMS services with the limited resources we had. Today we have far better equipment, facilities, and resources. Despite these improvements, we still struggle to staff our apparatus with enough firefighters. Many fire districts are turning to mergers and consolidations as a way to save tax dollars and improve response to alarms. This year we completed a merger of fire districts 26 & 28 (Index), which boosted response times. The residents of the former District 28 benefited from lower ratings for their property insurance. Fire District 7 (Monroe Bothell, Mill Creek), is working on a second merger with District 8 (Lake Stevens), after their successful merger with District 3. The consolidation of fire service agencies improves efficiencies and call response, and meets the growing demand on fire, rescue, and EMS services.

With the 26/28 merger, the District has three well equipped fire stations. We added another water tender and brush engine to our fleet this year. The District also adopted an apparatus replacement plan. This 30-year plan will fund the purchase of ambulances and fire trucks, and eliminate loans and finance charges. We are in the process of obtaining permits for our new training facilities located next to station 54. Our training division stepped up to provide some of the best and most innovative training in the county. Firefighters throughout the Pacific Northwest attend the classes we are offering.

I encourage you to visit our web site at [www.snofire26.org](http://www.snofire26.org). Review the emergency information and learn what your fire district is doing to better serve and protect your family and property. The support from you, our citizens has been amazing. Without it, we would not be able to provide such a high level of service. Your incredible community support and our outstanding department members make this all possible.

*“Snohomish County Fire District #26 has been serving the community since 1968. Recently we created the East Snohomish Training Academy. ESTA’s mission is to provide professionally trained personnel through challenging, realistic training, so that members can provide the greatest service for our community. We volunteer every day to make a difference.”*

*- Chief Eric Andrews*

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# District 26 Firefighters Participate in the World's Tallest "On-Air" Stair Climb Competition for a Cause

The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Firefighter Stair Climb is the world's largest on-air stair climb competition and annual fundraiser held at the tallest building in Seattle, the Columbia Center. All 2,000 participants were career or volunteer firefighters who climbed up the second tallest skyscraper west of the Mississippi in full turnout gear, weighing over 50 pounds, while on-air. Our department members raised over \$5000 to benefit the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.



Snohomish County Fire District 26 Volunteers raised over \$5000!

Team participants:

- Lieutenant Willis Reed
- Firefighter Katie Reed
- Firefighter Jacob Curti
- Firefighter Carsen Smith
- Firefighter Peter Anderson

Snohomish County Fire District 26 Participants

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## Fire District 26 Recognizes the 2018 Outstanding Members



Fire Officer of the Year Willis Reed



Firefighter of the Year Matthew Doran



EMS Provider of the Year Peter Anderson



Member of the Year Steve McCormack

# Your Fire Department Wants To Remind You About

## River Safety

Rivers are inherently dangerous places to recreate. The water can be high, swift and cold as mountain snowpack melts, making staying in control and hypothermia real risks. Logs and rocks, both visible and hidden, pose navigation hazards. Rivers are dynamic systems that change constantly.

### **Wear a life jacket. Because nobody plans to drown.**

RIVER USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN RECREATING IN RIVERS. HERE ARE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- Wear a PFD (personal flotation device).
- Do not use alcohol or drugs when recreating on the river.
- Watch children closely when they are on or near any type of water; stay close enough to reach them immediately.
- Choose safer swimming options with lifeguards present, such as a beach, lake or pool.

#### ***When planning a boating or floating trip:***

- Always tell someone your route and when and where you expect to put in and take out.
- Have a back-up plan for emergency contact in case your trip is cut short by an unforeseen obstacle or emergency.
- Never float the river alone and, if possible, make sure there is at least one oared craft in your group in case a rescue is needed.
- Bring a dry bag with food, water, and warm clothes.

Source: Public Health- Seattle & King County

### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY OFFICIALS PARTNERED WITH THE ORGANIZATION "SAFE KIDS" TO KEEP FAMILIES SAFE ON THE WATER THIS SUMMER BY OFFERING FREE LIFE JACKET RENTALS IN CERTAIN AREAS**

Starting Memorial Day weekend and going until Labor Day, children and adults will be able to use life jackets available at your local Fire Department.

The life jackets are available at the Index Fire Station, Gold Bar Fire Station (located on Hwy. 2), as well as Sultan and Monroe Fire stations. You can stop by any of these locations to borrow a life jacket!



# SCFD 26 Establishes ESTA

In an effort to provide the best service to you, our community, Snohomish County Fire District 26 has created the *East Snohomish Training Academy (ESTA)*. The goal of **ESTA** is to train our volunteers to the highest level possible, using the most current and progressive techniques. We feel our community deserves the best possible Fire Department we can provide. **ESTA** provides professional training to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standard at a minimal cost to the department. In fact, by providing in house fire training to our volunteers, the fire department saves thousands of dollars every year in training expenses. **ESTA** has provided emergency medical technician certification, firefighter academies, wildland fire training, and live fire training. **ESTA** provides this top quality training in a cost effective manner by using volunteer instructors. In the coming months/years, we hope to continue to develop **ESTA** into a top notch regional training program that we can all be proud of!



**Volunteering  
to make a  
difference**

Paid for by:

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We're on the web!  
[www.snofire26.org](http://www.snofire26.org)



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