



Fire Chief Don Waller

**“Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation .”** *Margaret Chase Smith (1887 – 1995) former U.S. Senator*



There are two issues I want to update you about this month.  
One is short-term and the other is a few years out.

The Board of Fire Commissioners approved a resolution for the August Primary Election ballot to return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Voters last approved this levy rate in 2017 and it has fallen to \$1.15 per \$1,000.

Call volumes have increased 34% since that time and now overlapping calls are happening 28% of the time. Our community requires additional personnel to respond to calls and facilities that will improve response times and firefighter health and safety. The lid lift will have implications for both operations and capital projects.

**Operations:** The lid lift would hire eight firefighters over six years to provide both a fire engine and medic unit in service at the same time. Currently, it’s just one or the other which is not adequate to meet the emergency service needs of our community.

**Capital Projects:** It also would build a fire station on Pine Avenue and replace one other as funding allows. These station projects will reduce emergency response times for residents and improve decontamination facilities for firefighters returning from calls.

Snohomish 4 is unique in that it funds both operations and capital projects from its fire levy as opposed to voter-approved bonds (which cost taxpayers more due to interest payments). If the lid lift is approved, these improvements can be made without voter-approved debt. They also will improve our risk rating which is connected to what you pay in homeowner insurance premiums.

The long-term issue involves merging with Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue (SRFR). Mergers must be voter approved, benefit both communities and, as such, are not guaranteed. Short-term, Snohomish 4 needs an adequate amount of revenue to meet the emergency service needs of our community. Financial security also makes our fire district more attractive to potential partners.

#### How do we fund emergency services?

Emergency services are funded by two property tax levies: a fire levy capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and an EMS levy capped at \$0.50 per \$1,000. The fire levy accounts for 67% of all funding. It helps fund EMS responses and pays cash for capital projects instead of borrowing money, which costs taxpayers more in interest payments.

Over time, levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district to the same amount of revenue per year plus a 1% increase allowed by law (or another voter-approved amount). For example, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2017. Since that time, the fire levy has fallen to \$1.15 per \$1,000. At this rate, the fire district receives the same amount of revenue plus a 1% increase. The 1% does not cover costs for higher call volumes and increased expenses. That’s why we ask voters for a lid lift to return the fire levy to the original amount of \$1.50 per \$1,000.

*Donald D. Waller*



## Snohomish County Fire District 4 SPRING 2023 Newsletter

Snohomish County Fire District 4  
1525 Avenue D  
Snohomish, WA 98290



### Employee Spotlight



**FF Ethan Dodd** grew up in Muckleshoot and graduated from Skagit Valley College. He loves snowboarding, camping, classic rock and once worked as a river guide.



**Paramedic Chelsea Diehl** grew up in Seattle and went through the Boston NMETC Medic Program. Her hobbies include boxing, lifting, languages, lake sports, painting and gardening. She loves classic country music and line dancing.



**Paramedic Rachel Lee** grew up in Marysville, has been an EMT for 6 years and was an outdoor guide for the Recreation program at Everett Naval Base. She has 2 cats, a snake and has hiked the Pacific Crest Trail.

#### Thank You

**FF Anthony Christoffersen** for 25 years of service to SCFD4. We wish you all the best in this next chapter of your life!



### Snohomish Food Bank

this Spring to benefit the

**BATTLE OF THE BADGES**

**Coming Soon - another**



[www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org)



@snohomishfire.org



**FIND US AT:**



# What can we do for You?

**ADDRESS SIGNS:**  
\$12 - Order Online

**BURN REGULATIONS**

**CAR SEAT CHECK:**  
Call to schedule an appointment with our certified car seat technician.

**CPR CLASSES**

**Explorer Post 444**

**KIDS SPOT**

**KNOX BOX**

## Proficiency – Balance – Collaboration – Resilience

Your Fire District is serious about serving you. We stand by our **Core Values** and pledge to offer you proficient service delivery by motivated personnel. We strive for balance by engaging in cost efficient, equitable and compassionate interactions with the community, and pursuing collaborations that are beneficial for our citizens. We will honor our long history by continuing to adapt and embrace the community’s changing needs. The QR codes above will link you to information about some of our most popular community programs, but don’t hesitate to reach out to us by phone or through our website. We value the constructive feedback provided on the Comment Cards we send you after seeing you for aid or fire calls. Please continue to join us at Commissioners Meetings, read our posts on Facebook and Nextdoor and let us know how best to serve you.

YOU are our reason for being here.

**Customer Satisfaction**

Our records indicate we recently interacted with an individual from this address. Please complete our satisfaction survey at [www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org) > **CONTACT US** > **Comment Cards** > Password: SNOW40FEED or scan the QR code below.

Request a printed comment card at:  
☎ 360-568-2141  
📧 [commentcard@snohomishfire.org](mailto:commentcard@snohomishfire.org)

**Learn more about SCFD4**

Follow us on Facebook to see the latest news and weekly **CHALK TALK** safety videos @snohomishfiredistrict4

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, view community programs, meet our staff, explore THE KIDS SPOT, and see employment opportunities at our website: [www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org)

Our Twitter Handle: @SnohomishFD4

**Nextdoor**  
Snohomish County Fire District 4

# 135 Years Strong

2023 marks the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your Snohomish Fire Department.

**1883** A force pump with 100 feet of hose was installed on the banks of the Snohomish River.



**1888** An official volunteer fire company was organized with a hose cart and 1,000 feet of hose. The \$1,300 cost was covered by donations.

**1890** The Snohomish Fire Department was established under city ordinance #25. Our Amoskeag pumper was ordered in December.



**1905** G. M. Cochran – Assistant Fire Chief – in his department uniform (right).

**1911** Snohomish’s first fire truck. The chemical wagon was driven by Art Hendrie (left). Fire Chief Joe Dunevant is seated next to him.



**More History Highlights** will be shared in our Spring & Summer electronic newsletters. Join our mailing list at [www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org)

# Prepare in a Year

## MONTH 7: Fire Safety

### Know what to do before, during and after a fire!

Home fires can occur anytime. Most home fires are caused by cooking accidents, smoking indoors, fireworks or unsafe use of woodstoves or space heaters. Disasters could rupture gas lines and decrease access to water.



#### Kitchen Fires:

- Baking soda,
- A pot lid, a bread board, or
- A fire extinguisher can smother flames.
- NEVER** use water on a grease or oil fire.

#### Flammable Liquids: (gasoline, kerosene, etc.)

- Never use flammable liquids inside the home.
- Store in approved containers in well-ventilated areas.
- Place materials soaked in flammable liquids in sealed metal containers outside.

#### Electrical Wiring:

- Inspect cords for frays, exposed wires & loose plugs.
- Make sure outlets have cover plates and that no wires are exposed.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets. In the event of electrical fire, shut off the main breaker.
- Put out the fire using an extinguisher, dirt or water.
- CAUTION:** If the electricity cannot be shut off, **DO NOT** use water on the fire.

#### Heating Sources:

- Use alternative heating sources (woodstoves, space heaters) according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable materials.
- NEVER** use gas ovens, stoves, BBQs or propane heaters indoors.

#### Smoke Detectors:

- Install outside bedrooms, at the top of stairways and near (not in) the kitchen.
- Replace batteries every 6months.
- Visit **GetASmokeAlarm.org** for free smoke alarms.

#### Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

- Install 18 inches from the floor wherever heating systems are located.
- Replace batteries every 6 months.

#### Fire Extinguishers:

- Install ABC fire extinguishers.
- Teach family members how to use them.
- One per floor, one in kitchen & garage.
- Use the PASS method:

