

# THE FIRE BELL



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## A letter from Chief:

As a fire district, we are indeed fortunate to have great support from the community, as well as the many part time and volunteer firefighters that serve our district. As our community continues to grow in terms of both residents and visitors, so too does the demand for emergency services. In response, we're constantly growing, training, and working hard to continue to provide the best service.

This April, the voters of Fire District 28 will vote to merge into Fire District 26, legally making one agency. I believe this merger will provide greater efficiency and improve our level of service to the valley. The change halves the number of fire commissioners from ten to five, will allow us to reassign duties more effectively, and our new operations chief will effectively coordinate daily activities and keep us on track to meeting department goals.

Last year, we were asked by several people if there was a way to know what was going on when all the sirens are heard. We began posting call types on a Gold Bar facebook page as an experiment. I was surprised to hear from so many folks that they really like to see the work we're doing. Even more comments saying we had no idea how many calls and type of calls the fire department responded to. The complexity of various types of calls and the need for special equipment and training will continue to challenge us. Your continued support, and the selfless giving of so many to our department compels us to provide the best possible service at the least cost. On behalf of the Fire Commissioners and all the department members we thank all of you for the generous outpouring of support and gratitude.

We operate three fire stations to serve the communities of Gold Bar, Reiter, Big Bend, Index and Riverside areas. We continue to provide Advanced Life Support paramedic service from Gold Bar to Stevens Pass. Our training division has been working diligently to train new firefighters and EMT's. Our new structural fire engine went into service last July and is expected to serve for the next 20 years! We are close to completing the addition of a new wildland fire engine. We completed the purchase of the property West of Station 54 and it is in architectural design for development into a usable training facility.

In 2017 some of our long-standing personnel retired. I want to thank Linda Larsen, Pat Sample, Robin Vargas, and Robert Delvecchio for all of your service and hard work



Fire District #26  
Chief Eric Andrews

*"Snohomish County Fire District #26 has been serving the community since 1968. We continue to improve the services we offer. In 2008 the district started training all firefighters to the national professional standard - three times the amount of training than the basic state firefighting. We volunteer every day to make a difference in the community"*

*- Chief Eric Andrews*

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# Fire District 26 Receives Delivery of New Fire Engine

On May 23rd of last year Assistant Chief Ernie Walters and Lt. Scott Coulson inspected and took delivery of our newest member of the District #26 Fleet - a 2015 Pierce Saber pumper from the Pierce Plant in Bradenton, FL! The new engine replaced our 1995 H & W fire engine, which after many years of service has been retired and surplused. The new fire engine was purchased at a significant savings because it was slightly used for demonstrations at trade shows around the country. The engine only saw prior service as a Safety Engine at the 2016 Daytona 500 race series for a few days. This new fire engine meets the needs of our growing community and fire district. After adding radios, decals and other tools, it was officially placed into service on July 15th, 2017. The most important piece of equipment on this engine continues to be our Firefighters, who will run thousands of calls staffing it over its life of service. Welcome to the family!



2015 Pierce Saber engine



The engine officially went into service last July

## Retirees for 2017 & 2018

Snohomish County Fire District 26 and 28 would like to extend a big “Thank you” to the following individuals for their dedicated and selfless service to our community. We appreciate the combined 107 years of service and salute you in your retirement!

- Secretary/First Responder **Linda Larsen**—32 years
- Firefighter **Pat Sample**—31 years
- Medical Services Administrator **Robin Vargas**—20 years
- Captain **Robert Delvecchio**—24 years

## What should you do in case of Evacuation?

Should a wildfire strike in your area, you may be put under an evacuation order. There are three separate levels of evacuation based on the threat to your home lives or property. The three levels are:

**Level 1** - Level 1 evacuations are an alert. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists, and monitor local media outlets for information. Residents with special needs, or those with pets or livestock, should take note and make preparations for relocating family members, pets, and livestock

**Level 2** - Level 2 evacuations indicate there is a significant risk to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the area, or, be ready to leave at a moments notice.

**Level 3** - Level 3 means danger is currently affecting your area or is imminent, and you should leave immediately

## Emergency Evacuation Supply List

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (ideally NOAA Weather Radio)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list, pertinent medical information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map of the area
- Other essential items that could not be replaced if they were destroyed.

## Smart911 - Are You Ready for Emergencies

Smart911 gives you, as a citizen, the ability to proactively provide important details about yourself and your family to 9-1-1 before an emergency happens. Your information is stored in a secure facility and is only made available to 9-1-1 when you make an emergency call from a phone tied to your Safety Profile.

You can provide information for property access, medications and allergies, children and pets - things that can matter in a life-threatening emergency when seconds count.



**Sign up for Smart 911 today at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)**

# How to Prepare for a Wildfire

As we head into spring, the firefighters in your community would like you to start thinking about warmer weather, and the threat of wildfire that this brings. Here are steps you can take to keep you and your loved ones safe:

- Save emergency phone numbers in your cell phone today, so you're ready when an emergency happens.
- Make sure driveway entrances and your house number or address are clearly marked.
- Identify and maintain an adequate water source outside your home, such as a small pond, cistern, well, or swimming pool.
- Set aside household items that can be used as fire tools: rake, axe, hand saw or chainsaw, bucket and shovel. You may need to fight small fires before emergency responders arrive.
- Select building materials and plants that resist fire.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters.
- Plan and practice two ways out of your neighborhood in case your primary route is blocked.
- Select a place for family members to meet outside your neighborhood in case you cannot get home or need to evacuate.
- Identify someone who is out of the area to contact if local phone lines are not working.

## Volunteering to make a difference

Paid for by:

**Snohomish County  
Fire District #26**

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



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