

# THE FIRE BELL



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## A Letter from the Chief:

**EMPLOYEES WANTED**, you see it at just about every business that you walk into, advertised on billboards, and on social media. It is now being called the “Great Resignation” for history purposes.

The reality is, many people are putting a greater value on their personal time. Volunteer firefighting has been an American institution since Ben Franklin founded the *Union Fire Company* in 1736. Seventy percent of fire departments in the US are reported to use volunteers as firefighters. However, the number of volunteer firefighters has been steadily decreasing for the last ten years. The last two years has seen a more rapid.



Sky Valley Fire Chief  
Eric Andrews

In the past, Sky Valley Fire has used two strategies in recruiting volunteers:

- those that simply want to serve the community and,
- those that want to learn the craft of firefighting to help them succeed in gaining employment as a full-time firefighter.

Recruiting a career minded volunteer to come out to Gold Bar and Index has been more successful in past years than recruiting community minded volunteers living here in the Sky Valley. We are now seeing many of our career minded volunteers being hired full-time as other career fire departments in the state are readily hiring as many skilled people as possible. In addition to this, we find the community minded volunteer is the most difficult to recruit. Community minded volunteers are a special type of person that loves to give back in untold proportions.

Is the volunteer firefighter a dying breed? I don't believe it is in our community. I believe there are those who want to give back, and in a huge way. Being a volunteer firefighter is great. I cannot tell you it is easy, or will take a small amount of your time. Do you have the time and commitment to give back in such a huge way?

Our agency is fortunate to have some of the most dedicated and amazing people. I am in awe of what they do for our department and community. We can



Pictured is the latest Academy Recruits and Instructors.

have the best fire stations, apparatus and equipment but they are second only to our members. Lastly, I want to thank you all of our residents for the support we get from the community, from your letters, social media and your hard earned tax dollars.

*“The Fire District has changed its name from Snohomish County Fire District #26 to Sky Valley Fire. Sky Valley Fire serves the City of Gold Bar and Town of Index along with providing paramedic service to a portion of King County. We believe the name change better represents these communities. You will still see Snohomish County Fire District #26 as our legal name.”*

*- Chief Eric Andrews*

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# Sky Valley Fire's Community Risk Reduction

## Sky Valley Fire receives DNR/Forest Service Grant for a wood chipper:

In a continuing effort to help reduce wildland fire danger in our fire district, Sky Valley Fire applied for and received a grant! The grant is from the Department of Natural Resources/Forest Service for the purchase of a commercial grade wood chipper.

With the purchase of our new wood chipper, the district plans to have scheduled days throughout the year that residents can bring their tree branches and yard clippings to **Fire Station 54** (42013 SR 2) for disposal.



The district also has plans to have the wood chipper available for communities in the fire district. This would be a scheduled day on site in our local communities.

Sky Valley Fire purchased this wood chipper so that can be towed behind a department vehicle, and is capable of chipping 7" diameter tree branches.

Sky Valley Fire is currently establishing operating procedures and training personnel on the use of the wood chipper and expect to have the equipment in service by the beginning of summer.

For further information on the scheduled chipper days at the fire station or to schedule a community chipper day for your community, please visit our website at: [www.skyvalleyfire.org](http://www.skyvalleyfire.org), click on the Community Risk Reduction tab and go to the Community Wildfire Preparedness section, or you can contact Assistant Chief Ernie Walters via email @ [ewalters@skyvalleyfire.org](mailto:ewalters@skyvalleyfire.org)

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## Can we Find You at Night?

Can we find you in an emergency? Would emergency responders be able to find you if you needed help?

Help us find you with a **FREE** reflective address sign!!

In an emergency, every second counts, and there is no better way to help us out than to have your address clearly marked.

Don't wait for an emergency to find out that your address is not visible from the street. Sky Valley Fire can make you a personalized address sign to ensure that your address is visible from the street and in the dark.

Order your **FREE** sign today, Horizontal or Vertical signs are available (limited supply of posts are available)





# Smart911<sup>®</sup>

## Today, 9-1-1 Can't Find You

Over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones. When you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, the 9-1-1 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location.

This is a serious problem in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or are unable to safely speak.

With Smart911, you can provide 9-1-1 call takers and first responders critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency.

When you call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile displays on the 9-1-1 screen and the 9-1-1 call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.

Smart911 is a national service meaning your Smart911 Safety Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide.



### Safety Profiles can Include:



People living in your household



Phone numbers associated with your family



Medications and medical equipment



Medical conditions and allergies



Vehicle descriptions



Property details, layout and utility information



Emergency contacts

Go to [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com), and sign up on their website. Set up an account with a user name and password or use the mobile app on the Apple App store or Google Play. All for free!

# CPR & First Aid Certification Classes

## CPR/AED

This course teaches adult CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking on an adult. This course includes hands on skills training.

## Basic First Aid / CPR AED

This course teaches critical skills needed to respond to and manage a first aid, choking, or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives.

Students learn skills such as how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock, and other first aid emergencies. This course also covers the signs and symptoms of medical emergencies such as heart attack, stroke and diabetic emergencies.

## Basic Life Support Classes (BLS)

This course teaches CPR/AED for both single-rescuer and team, and basic life support skills in a prehospital settings. This course is designed for healthcare professionals and other people who need to know how to perform CPR and other basic cardiovascular life support skills. In addition, BLS training can be appropriate for laypeople whose work brings them into contact with members of the public, such as a school, fitness center, or hotel and restaurant employees.

**How to Register:** To reserve your spot, complete the registration form under the “CPR & First Aid Classes” or email [cpr@snofire26.org](mailto:cpr@snofire26.org) for further assistance.



## Volunteering to make a difference

Paid for by:

**Sky Valley Fire**  
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(360) 793-1335

We're on the web!



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