

THE FIRE BELL



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A message from our Chief:

In 2015, our state experienced the worst wildland fire season in recorded history. The second worst was 2014. This year, we all saw the Proctor Creek fire on our doorstep.

Experts have begun to warn of big challenges facing rural fire departments regarding wildfires. In response, Fire District #26 is actively preparing and planning for "urban interface" fire dangers. We have invested more in wildland capable apparatus, equipment, and training. We have participated in Washington state fire mobilization, sending our resources to assist other agencies across the state and get our firefighters more experience.

The challenge during these major fire events is not only the fires themselves, but the need to continue providing emergency response locally. EMS calls, structure fires, motor vehicle collisions, and rescues continue to increase in frequency as our community grows and recreation-seeking guests visit our community.

The recent fire at Proctor Creek shows us that wildland fires are real to our community, and the speed at which they can spread is astonishing. You can play your part in helping to create your own "Defensible Space" using fire-wise construction and landscaping materials. For more information, visit www.readyforwildfire.org/defensible-space. Doing so can make the difference in saving your home, and perhaps even saving the lives of firefighters.

Lastly, we need each of you to know and understand the levels of evacuation. While we always hope to give you time and notice in the event of an evacuation, the fire does not always agree with our plan. If we issue a Level 3 evacuation notice, it is imperative that you leave immediately for your safety. Be prepared. For more information on evacuation levels, please visit our web site at www.snofire26.org.



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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Training Fire District 26's newest volunteers

On March 26, 2016, three of Fire District 26's newest members began the Everett Community College Fire Academy. Over the next 12 weeks these members will have obtained the Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Operations certifications. Alex Fatkin, Matt Baller, and Collin Chavez dedicated themselves to countless hours of studying and training throughout the 12 weeks and look forward to serving the community of Gold Bar after the completion of their academy on June 20th.

Another member of District 26 started at the Washington State Fire Academy in March and attends the North Bend facility Friday-Sunday. Casey Dale will graduate from his academy on June 26th.

While attending the fire academy, Dale maintains his job with Falck Ambulance Company during the week days. Dale will have received the Firefighter 1 and Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Operations certificates.

Fatkin, Baller, Chavez and Dale would like to thank District 26 for sponsoring them through the academy and providing the necessary gear and equipment needed for successful completion.



Our newest volunteers, ready for duty.

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

The Proctor Creek Fire was contained in two days, no lives lost. What if there's a next time? Use the check-lists below to make sure you are ready.



Proctor Creek Fire, May 2016, Gold Bar. (Photo Credit: Scott Coulson)

If there are reports of a wildfire in your area:

- Be ready to leave at a moment's notice
- Listen to local radio and TV stations for updated emergency information
- Always back your car into the garage or park in an open space facing the direction of escape
- Confine pets to one room so that you can find them if you need to evacuate quickly
- Arrange for temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area
- Keep indoor air clean by closing windows and doors to prevent outside smoke from getting in
- Use the recycle or re-circulate mode on the AC in your home or car. If you do not have AC and it's too hot to stay inside with closed windows, seek shelter elsewhere
- Do not use anything that burns and adds to indoor air pollution, such as candles, fireplaces, and gas stoves. Do not vacuum as it stirs up particles that are already inside your home.

Supplies to take with you in case of evacuation:

- 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 (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- 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 and 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(s) of the area
- Other essential items that could not be replaced if they were destroyed

When Was The Last Time You Changed The Batteries In Your Smoke Alarm?

We all recognize that sound. The awful chirp that sounds like you have some kind of bird on the loose in your house? That chirping noise could be the smoke detector telling you it's time for a new battery. In a 2015 report from the National Fire Protection Association, it was found that **3 of every 5 home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke detectors (38%) or no working smoke detectors (21%).**

It is recommended that you push the test button on all your smoke detectors once a month to make sure the batteries are in working order. To activate your smoke detectors battery test, press and hold the test button for 10-20 seconds. The detector should make a loud beeping noise, meaning the batteries are still good. If there is no noise or only an occasional chirping sound from your detector, it is time to replace the battery. It is recommended that you replace your smoke detector's batteries once a year regardless of their condition. For more valuable smoke detector safety information, go to www.nfpa.org/education.

**Volunteering
to make a
difference**

Paid for by:

**Snohomish County
Fire District #26**

501 Lewis Ave
PO Box 376
Gold Bar, WA 98251

(360) 793-1335

We're on the web!
www.snofire26.org



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