

# THE FIRE BELL



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June 2015

## New Medic Units

District 26 took delivery of two brand new ambulances on April 21st, 2015. These units were purchased for \$150,000 each from Braun Northwest of Chelalis. These are the first new ambulances purchased by the district in 13 years. They replace a 1996 ambulance (bought new), as well as a 1999 ambulance bought used from Redmond Fire Department in 2006.

A committee was formed in 2014 to design a unit that could handle the conditions of operating in the Skykomish Valley. The new ambulances have a number of improved safety features, including:

- A rear attendant seat with a three point seatbelt
- Access to life-saving medications and equipment without the crew having to remove their seatbelts or stand up while the unit is in motion.
- Improved outside storage eliminating the need to store contaminated fire-fighting clothing in the patient area
- LED lighting to improve visibility during responses, with the ability to shut off white flashing lights during snowy conditions.
- Increased reflective striping for visibility during night time operations, especially along highway 2

Fire District 26 partners with King County Fire District 50 in Skykomish to provide advanced life support from Gold Bar to the top of Stevens Pass. These two units will allow us to provide that service with greater safety and reliability. In addition, one unit will be equipped as a bariatric unit, allowing us to transport patients weighing up to 700lbs; eliminating the need to wait for a special private ambulance to make the journey from Everett or Seattle.

*“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*



Our new Medic Units

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Station 54, on highway 2, Gold Bar.

## Fire District 26 Improves Insurance Rating

A review by the Washington State Survey and Ratings Bureau has improved the insurance rating classification for Fire District #26 from a class 6 to 5. The improved rating, lowers your insurance rates as well as other properties within Fire District #26. A home with a value of \$350,000 can exceed \$1,000 in insurance costs annually, so improving this rating can really make a difference. No department in the state has achieved a class 1 rating, although Seattle fire is currently a class 2. That's one of the reasons we strive for excellence, and another way we are able to serve our community. A class 5 rating with an all-volunteer department is almost unheard of, so we'd like to take a moment to thank our volunteers for their dedication, time, and commitment in making the fire department one that we can all be proud of.

## Sign up for Smart 911

No one plans to call 911, but now you can plan ahead. Snohomish Fire District #26 urges you to visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com), here you can sign up to provide the emergency services with additional information to help you when it matters most. Information is securely stored, and only made available when you make an emergency call from the number associated with your account. 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.



## Scholarships in honor of District 26 heroes

Gold Bar Fire Fighters Association is pleased to announce the creation of the Les Putnam Memorial Paramedic Education Foundation. The scholarship will assist with Snohomish County Fire District 26 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-Basic/EMT-Advanced) tuition for paramedic training. The Association has also created the Bert McClellan Memorial Scholarship to assist a graduating senior in Sultan high School with tuition for Public Services Training or Education in the amount of \$500.

We are accepting donations for the above education programs at Gold Bar Fire Fighters Association, PO Box 376, Gold Bar, WA 98251.



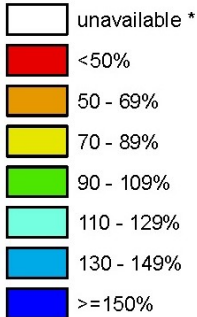
Bert McClellan (left), and Les Putnam (right): their legacy continues.



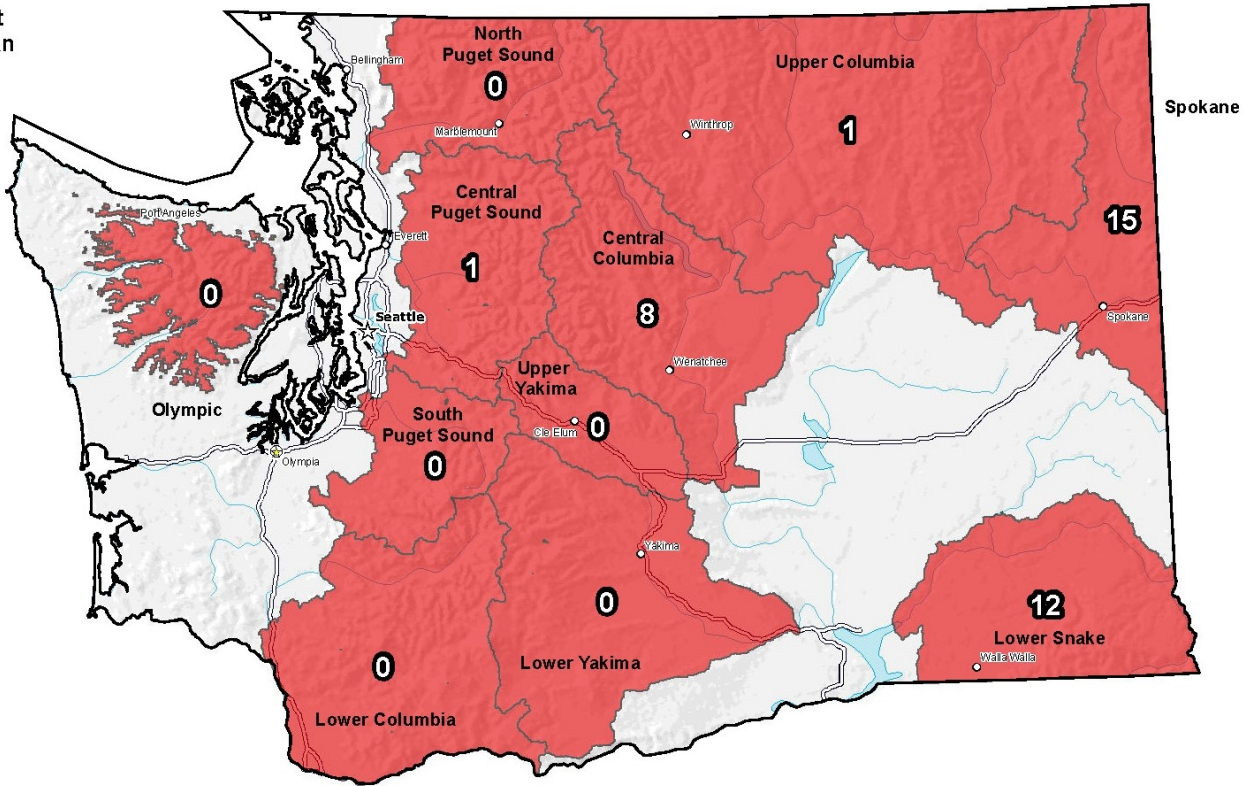
## Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Jun 05, 2015

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year



### Key points

Firewise.org advises:

- Identify risks around your home
- Talk with your neighbors about common risks
- Talk to your local fire department about a free wildfire assessment.
- Educate yourself about fire behavior
- Make sure you're covered by property insurance
- Take a home inventory of your furnishings and possessions.

Snowpack in the valley is at record breaking low levels.

## Wildfire in the Valley

Located at the foothills of the Cascade Mountain range, Fire District #26 has one of the most forested Districts in Snohomish County. As a result, the District also has 3 wild land Firefighting Brush trucks and all of its firefighter qualified members are trained in fighting wildfires. Last year our crews were sent as part of multiple Snohomish County Strike Teams to several statewide fire mobilizations including the Carlton Complex fire, which turned out to be the largest recorded wildfire in WA state history.

While assigned to the Carlton Complex, our firefighters worked long hours as part of the Structure Protection group, stopping the fire from consuming dozens of homes, holding fire lines and mopping up hotspots. After nearly 11 days on assignment, crews returned home only to be re-deployed for 6 more days following another fire in the same area.

Although western Washington typically doesn't have large fires consuming thousands of acres, the risk of wildfire in our community is very real. This year, our snowpack is at record breaking low levels with the central Cascades being hit the hardest.

Forecasters are predicting a higher than normal Fire Danger in our area as a result. We encourage all our citizens to ensure they have "Defensible Space" around their homes by clearing all brush, firewood and flammable materials 30' away from the perimeter. For more information, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

# Water Safety

As summer approaches and it starts to get hot outside, many people flock to the Skykomish river to cool off. And every year District 26 responds to numerous water-related emergencies that could have been prevented.

## Here are some basic safety guidelines:

- Adults and children should always wear a life jacket on the river. Never go near moving water without one.
- Wear a special river helmet which has holes for draining. River banks and rocks are usually slippery, one can easily fall knocking yourself unconscious. (check your local sporting goods stores).
- Consider bringing a whistle. If you are in trouble, it can help alert nearby people.
- Don't go into a river without training and knowledge. Seek out river professionals and guides who can show you how to use the river safely.
- River channels change from season to season. With each high water, flood, or summer melt, trees, branches and debris are moved around . This creates snags (single tree or root ball) and strainers (multiple trees and branches). Getting caught in one of these will cause the victim to be pinned by the force of the current.

If you have any questions, please contact us or drop by one of the stations.

### **Snohomish County Fire District #26**

501 Lewis Ave  
PO Box 376  
Gold Bar, WA 98251

## Volunteering to make a difference

Paid for by the Gold  
Bar Fire Fighters As-  
sociation

### **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](http://www.snofire26.org)

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