

# THE FIRE BELL

Volume 5 Issue 1

August 2021



## A letter from the Chief:

Have you noticed that in many television shows you will see a fire truck pass in the background during the film? Studies have shown that fire trucks are a symbol of security and trust, and the audience will have those feelings, even subconsciously. To a firefighter, the fire truck is part of the fire family that lives and breathes.

The process to purchase a fire truck can begin up to two years before it even gets delivered. With fire trucks costing between \$450,000 to \$750,000 each, and expected to meet the needs of the community for 20 years or more, you can't get it wrong. When the fire truck is finally delivered and equipped, the fire service will have a ceremony that welcomes the new family member, and the truck is pushed into its ready place in the fire station before its first response. The fire District was fortunate to receive a new fire truck in May of this year. The cost was \$477,000 of your hard earned tax dollars. But unlike in the past, when we have asked for a bond, the fire district worked hard to save the funds to purchase the truck. This apparatus replacement fund was established about four years ago. Each year the fire district contributes from its regular tax funds some of the amount that is needed to replace each apparatus. In the past, the district would have run a special bond issue—an excess tax to make this purchase. Bonds borrow money and pay the loan back with interest. But thanks to all of you for approving regular levy rates, the district did not have to pass an excess bond levy to make this purchase. Later this year we will purchase a new EMS unit from



Sky Valley Fire Chief  
Eric Andrews

the same fund, with no special bond levy increase or interest cost. The apparatus replacement fund is working as planned, and saving you money, while replacing old worn out fire department vehicles. Welcome to the fleet - 2021 Pierce fire truck. We hope you enjoy your new home and family.



*"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*

## In This Issue

- 1 - A letter from Chief
- 2 - Sky Valley Fire Drone Program
- 2 - Burn Ban and Burn Permits
- 3 - River Safety Tips
- 3 - Fire Department Training Offered to the Public
- 4 - Evacuation Information

# Evacuations

As we enter wildfire season please review these evacuation levels.

- **Level 1:** Means “BE READY” for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information.
- **Level 2:** Means “BE SET” to evacuate. You must prepare to leave at a moment’s notice. If you have a safe place to go we recommend you leave.
- **Level 3:** Leave immediately without delay, fire will be at your location within minutes. If you stay you cannot expect help from first responders.



## Volunteering to make a difference

Paid for by:

**Sky Valley Fire**  
501 Lewis Ave  
PO Box 376  
Gold Bar, WA 98251

(360) 793-1335

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



NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GOLD BAR, WA  
PERMIT NO. 9

**Sky Valley Fire**  
501 Lewis Ave  
PO Box 376  
Gold Bar, WA 98251

# Sky Valley Fire Uses Drones to Save Lives!

Sky Valley Fire recently put into service 2 EVO II aerial systems. These drones are equipped with infrared cameras that will assist in finding hot spots in fires, as well as searches on land and in the river. We currently have 4 FAA licensed pilots and we will be training additional pilots in the near future. You may see these aircraft around the district on training missions and during emergency calls.

It can take more than an hour for a Sheriff's Office helicopter to reach our area. The drones allow us to quickly deploy an aerial asset to get a better view of the river or other areas where someone is missing or needs assistance. The pilots have the ability to attach a personal flotation device or radio to the aircraft and fly it quickly to a person in need.

We have also assisted the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office in looking for suspects and lost persons. The drone pilots are averaging 1 to 2 missions a week.



---

## The Fire Department Goes Digital With Burn Permits

Burn Ban



No Vegetation Burning

We are currently in a burn ban...All outdoor burn permits, including permits issued by PSCAA (Puget Sound Clean Air Agency) for agricultural burning, are suspended until this ban is lifted. This ban will remain in effect until a sustained period of rainfall and the fire risk returns to low. With the continuing dry weather conditions, we urge the public to use great caution before lighting any recreational fires since wildfires are a significant risk across the region

### ***When The Burn ban is lifted:***

Burn Permits are required for all fires in Snohomish County. Sky Valley Fire issues burn permits for free on our website at [SkyValleyFire.org](http://SkyValleyFire.org). In the City of Gold Bar and the surrounding Urban Growth Area along with the Town of Index, only recreational fires are permitted. These are fires that are no larger than 3 foot by 3 foot for recreational or religious purposes. Outside of these areas, natural debris fires are allowed. Occasionally burn bans are put in place by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency or the Snohomish County Fire Marshall. The Sky Valley Fire website contains the latest burn ban information, <https://skyvalleyfire.org/outdoor-burning>

# Your Fire Department Wants To Remind You About River Safety



## *Knowing River Dangers:*

- Moving water presents many dangers, some hidden.
- Currents – even a mild current is extremely powerful. The force of moving water can pin a person's leg against a rock in mid stream, leaving them stranded.
- Snags – these are single trees or root balls in the river.
- Strainers – a strainer is just that – trees, branches, and debris that has current moving through them. The water can pass through, but large objects, including people, cannot. A raft, kayak, or person will be pinned against the strainer and stay there.

## *Dangerous Waters*

Some sections of Snohomish County rivers are dangerous and should be avoided. Boulder Drop and Sunset Falls on the Skykomish River - and their tributaries – are extremely dangerous due to huge waterfalls and rapids. These falls have been fatal to anyone caught in them.

## *Safety at the Rivers*

Always wear a life jacket on the river. Never go near moving water without one.

Wear a river helmet. River banks and rocks are usually slippery. A fall can knock you unconscious and prevent you from being able to save yourself from a one way trip downstream. (You can buy the above safety items at your local sporting goods stores.)

Consider bringing a whistle. If you are in trouble, it could help alert nearby people.

Snohomish County Code Requires life jackets and helmets on any watercraft on the Skykomish from the area of Big Eddy to the river's source. You can be cited for violating this code. (SCC 10.32)

Don't go into a river without training and knowledge. Seek out river professionals: guides who can show you how to use the river safely. Knowledgeable guides can point out dangerous areas.

From: Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, [sheriff.snoco.org](http://sheriff.snoco.org)

---

## Fire Department Training Available to the Public

CPR Classes, sponsored by the American Heart Association, are offered by Sky Valley Fire Instructors. The skills covered include rescue breathing, CPR, AED use, and first aid for choking victims.

*Available courses are as follows:*

- BLS for Healthcare Providers Skills Session
- Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, and AED Skills Session
- BLS for Healthcare Providers
- Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, and AED
- Heartsaver CPR and AED Skills Session
- Heartsaver CPR and AED

To locate a CPR instructor or an upcoming class, please contact:  
Sky Valley Fire [cpr@skyvalleyfire.org](mailto:cpr@skyvalleyfire.org) or [www.skyvalleyfire.org](http://www.skyvalleyfire.org)