

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BRAIN WITHOUT OXYGEN

- From 0-4 minutes Brain Damage is *Unlikely*
- From 4-6 minutes Brain Damage is *Probable*
- From 6-10 minutes it is *Very Likely*
- After 10 minutes without oxygen Brain Damage is *Almost Certain*



Do a couple of minutes really make a difference?

“FROM CPR CALLS TO HOUSE FIRES,
MINUTES MATTER”

What do a couple minutes mean? When you're waiting in line for coffee or to checkout at the grocery store, a couple of minutes doesn't mean much. Worst case scenario is that you are late to the next place you have to be. But, in the business of saving lives and property, a couple of minutes means everything. A couple of minutes on a CPR call can mean irreversible heart and brain damage or death. In a fire, minutes mean just as much. Every minute a fire doubles in size and, with the way newer homes and products inside homes burn, the temperature can rise dramatically, causing what we call flashover to happen before crews are able to arrive and start firefighting or attempting rescues. During a NIST study, a room that started with a small fire on a couch grew to the point of the entire room being involved in under 5 minutes.

Our crews understand the importance of time and we have made changes with staffing to increase our response times and cut down on delays. We also are working towards greater community awareness for performing CPR and recognizing strokes. Visit the American Heart Association for more information. We have increased training for our firefighters to use safer and quicker tactics while fighting fires. The National Institute for Safety and Technology has shown in studies that **effectiveness in firefighting and searching for victims increases by 25% when crews have 3 firefighters instead of 2**. This is a goal that we are working towards in Fire District 21. We can only be successful with your continued support.

**If you're interested in becoming a firefighter call
(360) 435.3311 or visit www.firedistrict21.com**



Snohomish County Fire District 21

Commissioner Chair: Dave Safford
Commissioner: Eric Nordstrom
Commissioner: Ed Taft

Fire Chief: Chad Schmidt

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We are Snohomish County Fire District 21 and we wanted to give you some information about the people and services that protect you and your families. We protect over 70 square miles surrounding the city of Arlington and 9,000 citizens. Our District is divided by the Stillaguamish river into a North and South region. The North region is served by the Arlington Heights Fire Station 49 and the South region is served by Burn Hill Station 50 which started protecting this area in 2022. We are an all hazards department providing fire, basic life support, water rescue, hazmat and rope rescue services. North County Fire Authority provides paramedic services to the entire district. We currently have 1 full time Chief, 7 full time firefighters, 26 part paid firefighters and 10 volunteer firefighters. In 2022 due to increased costs staffing was reduced to 2 Firefighter/ EMT's at Station 49 and 2 firefighter EMT's at Station 50. The Fire District saw a 46% increase in calls from 2020 and is responding with fewer Firefighter/EMT's. We have also taken over Fire and basic life support EMS services in our Burn Rd and McElroy Rd area. That is an increase of 2-3 calls per day, plus mutual aid responses to neighboring departments.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you to the citizens of Fire District 21 for the privilege to serve as your Chief this last year and a half. 2021 was a year of changes for us at SCFD 21. From staffing changes to changes in our planning for a new fire station. The District after pushing through delays and bureaucratic battles between agencies outside of the Fire District's control. After 60 years of contracting to Arlington Fire Department for Fire and EMS services on Burn rd. and McElroy rd. area our Fire Department took over all Ambulance and Fire Protection services. While change can be difficult, we also see that change has been good. We have developed a 5 year strategic plan that involves staffing, apparatus replacement, training and facility projects. But the two biggest things we as a District have been working on are increasing safety and service to our citizens. We have had the help from our citizen advisory group as well as a finance specialist in this process. Our goal will always be to keep our citizen's lives and property safe and I have committed to doing this as fiscally responsible as

possible. We have worked hard this last year and a half to make this Fire Department the heart of the community again and for our firefighters to feel like a part of a family. I hope that you are treated like family if you ever need our service. I grew up in Arlington and still live here. My family is invested in this community. My kids go to school here and play sports here so this isn't just where I work, it's my home. I appreciate your trust and support for our Fire Department and firefighters and we will always represent this community with the highest integrity and level of professionalism.

Chad Schmidt

District Fire Chief

cschmidt@firedistrict21.com



"We aspire to serve our community with professionalism, honesty, education and integrity by building a firm foundation that provides safety and security for all."

Snohomish County Fire District 21

Is the Provider of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Life Safety for our Community

- * Responded to over 2000 calls in 2020, over 70% EMS.
- * Calls increased 35% over last 2 years
- * Providing emergency response to 9,000 people over 70 square miles
- * 8 full time employee, 26 part paid and 10 volunteer firefighters
- * One fire station in Arlington Heights, One temporary fire station on McElroy Rd.
- * Funded by two property tax levies: EMS and Fire
- * EMS levy renewed by voters in 2019 at 50 cents per \$1000 currently at 45 cents
- Fire Levy was increased to \$1.30/1000, currently at \$1.09 cents of a possible \$1.50/1000 (Only Darrington, Oso and Hat Island are lower)
- A strategic 7 year financial plan is in place to insure proper funding and planning for future growth
- Board of Fire Commissioners will ask voters to renew the fire levy to \$1.30 per \$1000 in August of 2022. This lid lift would cost the owner of a \$500,000 home an additional \$8.75 dollars per month. (\$105 per year)
- McElroy Rd station staffing currently at 2 people with a hope to increase to 3-4 firefighter/ EMT's, which allows crews entry into homes on fire.
- Arlington Heights Station staffing Currently at 2 people, with a hope to increase to 3-4 at which allows crews entry into homes on fire.

"I am not here for ME, I am here for WE, and WE are here for THEM."

Andy Fredericks- Anchorage FD

HOW WOULD THIS FIRE LEVY CHANGE OUR ABILITY TO SERVE YOU

We've Done our Homework.

SOLUTIONS TO INCREASING DEMAND

With an increased call volume of over 35% in the last 2 years SCFD 21 can no longer rely on mutual aid and service contracts to serve its citizens. Staffing a new Station on McElroy Rd and increasing staffing for Arlington Heights is a must. Response times will be cut nearly in half and Fire ground and EMS effectiveness will be increased dramatically.

We also plan to continue our mutual aid relationship with the North County Regional Fire Authority for paramedic services. **We** are dedicated to providing a professional service to all of our citizens whether at home, work, or school.

SCFD 21 is always looking for ways to improve our service and be a safer more effective agency. Being fiscally responsible is also a major area of importance to us. While other agency's have chosen to merge to save money and combine efforts we have chosen to stand alone still so that our citizens can pay a lower rate of \$1.30/1000 instead of the normal \$1.50. We also have been able to control our own service level and make sure all areas of our fire district are receiving an equal level of service.

After discussions with our citizen group and completing a 7 year Strategic funding model with the help of a highly regarded finance specialist with over 41 years in the public finance sector. It was obvious to all involved that the most cost effective and efficient option was to provide Fire and basic life support services on our own. We chose \$1.30 because it was the lowest possible amount that kept us from depleting all of our reserves and having to decrease

staffing. We did not take this lightly but the seriousness of safe staffing levels was seen by all. If nothing were to be added to our current funding and we continued to operate at the level we do today we would be unable to financially support it by the end of 2022. With increasing costs for Paramedic service and overall cost increases due to inflation like all of you have felt this last year and a half. We would be unable to provide safe staffing and could not guarantee a proper response for Fire and EMS calls to our citizens. We would be reliant on mutual aid from our neighbors and a depleted volunteer response. Joining an RFA would be the best choice at a future date but would also require a \$1.50/1000 fire levy which is a higher cost that isn't needed currently. It was the opinion of the citizen group, board of commissioners and Fire Chief that the \$1.30 levy was the responsible choice. We will continue to review these options and will be adaptable as situations change. Currently the need to Renew the Fire Levy is our top priority.

What Happens if it fails.....

If the fire levy fails, Fire District 21 will not have enough funds to continue current services past 2022. With increasing costs for Paramedic service and Inflation our budget is unable to support the increased call demand. We would be unable to provide safe staffing levels and could not guarantee a proper response for Fire and EMS calls to our citizens. We would be reliant on mutual aid from our neighbors and a depleted volunteer response.

~ Fire Chief Chad Schmidt