

# Collaborative Fire & EMS Service Delivery in Snohomish County: A Feasibility Study

Fire and EMS Provider Interviews | June and July 2023

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## Overview

This interview will support the feasibility study for collaborative fire and EMS service delivery in Snohomish County described in depth on Snohomish County 911's website here. The purpose of this interview is to understand your agency's perspectives on the current state of fire services and EMS provision in Snohomish County and to explore the benefits and challenges associated with potential greater collaboration among providers.

BERK Consulting will summarize aggregated interview findings in a concise report that will be publicly available in fall 2023. **All input gathered via interviews will be anonymized**, though BERK may report potential trends by agency size or community type if common themes are found among small, medium, and large agencies or urban and suburban communities.

This interview will take no more than 1 hour and will occur virtually via Microsoft Teams. Agencies may involve whichever staff they prefer in these interviews with a recommendation to include one to three key stakeholders. This might be most appropriate for Chief level staff and someone directly involved in EMS oversight for the department.

## Questions

### *Fire Protection Services in Snohomish County (5-10 mins)*

1. What is working well in the current state? What could improve?
2. What challenges do you foresee in the coming 5 years?

### *Emergency Medical Services in Snohomish County (5-10 mins)*

3. What is working well in the current state? What could improve?
4. What challenges do you foresee in the coming 5 years?

### *Snohomish County EMS (10-15 mins)*

5. What roles should SCEMS play now? What roles should SCEMS grow into over time?
6. How would you envision financing SCEMS to support stability/sustainability?
7. There's been some interest in merging SCEMS with Sno911 so that Sno911 could provide SCEMS with administrative support functions. This could also lead to a change in SCEMS' governance model and financial support model. Would you have any thoughts about exploring this further?

*Potential Enhanced Regional Cooperation (20-25 mins)*

- 8. What are your thoughts about greater collaboration among fire and EMS providers, including potential benefits, concerns, and barriers?
- 9. For each function listed below, identify whether you'd be (1) supportive of enhanced cooperation, (2) neutral to enhanced cooperation, (3) opposed to enhanced cooperation. Why?

Functional areas	Organizations that could Potentially Support Enhanced Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Alternative care/crisis response</li><li>▪ Fire prevention</li><li>▪ Firefighter and EMT training</li><li>▪ Fleet</li><li>▪ Paramedic training</li><li>▪ Equipment standards and purchasing</li><li>▪ Officer development</li><li>▪ Research and development (e.g., pilot projects or a shared countywide focus on an area for improvement)</li><li>▪ Recruitment</li><li>▪ Shared officer and/or decision-making during stressed operations</li><li>▪ Special operations</li><li>▪ Other?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Community colleges</li><li>▪ Fire Training Consortium</li><li>▪ Law enforcement</li><li>▪ North County Joint Training Group</li><li>▪ Snohomish County 911</li><li>▪ Snohomish County EMS</li><li>▪ Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association</li><li>▪ Special Operations Policy Board</li><li>▪ Other?</li></ul>

10. What principles should guide decision-making around greater regional cooperation? What would be a desirable pace of change?

11. If you look 20 years into the future, what would you like to see in terms of collaboration and coordination among Snohomish County fire and EMS providers?

*Data Request – Following Interview Completion*

What do you currently spend on each of the above functional areas, either via contributions to regional bodies or on internal capacity?