



MONROE FIRE DISTRICT #3

163 Village Court • Monroe, WA 98272

NEWS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Joint Water Rescue Training on Lake Tye, May 13th

Monroe, WA—Beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13th, Monroe Fire District #3 (MFD #3) and the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) will be conducting joint operational water rescue training on Lake Tye. This exercise will be the first joint training operation between the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office divers/swiftwater technicians and the Monroe Fire District #3 Water Rescue Team. The purpose of this exercise is to jointly train for cooperative rescue responses throughout the region. Working together, the teams will have an opportunity to share training concepts, technology, and streamline tactics for a real-world combined emergency response in the area's lakes, rivers, or during future flood events.

It is anticipated that at least 25 technicians will participate in the exercise with training taking place in multiple locations simultaneously—boat operations on the lake, divers under the water, and shore training on the beach. Also present will be a fire engine, medic unit, numerous SCSO vehicles, boats, and an informational safety booth. The rescue technicians will be training from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

SCSO and MFD #3 would like to invite (and strongly encourage) the public to watch this training and gather valuable water safety information that will be available on-site. Students from Monroe Montessori School will be present to help educate the public on the importance of practicing water safety as well as handing out giveaways for the kids.

As the summer gets closer, activities in and around the water become more popular. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 3,582 unintentional drownings in 2005, averaging ten deaths per day. One in four fatal drowning victims are children under the age of 14. A non-fatal drowning can cause brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities. Why do children drown? The CDC states that the major risk factors include: Lack of barriers and supervision, age and recreation in natural water settings such as lakes, rivers, or oceans, lack of appropriate choices in recreational boating, alcohol use, and seizure disorders. What can you do to prevent drownings? Designate a responsible adult to supervise children in or around the water, swim with a buddy, don't drink alcohol before or during water activities, learn to swim, learn CPR, do not use air filled or foam toys such as water wings or noodles in place of life jackets. Together, through education, we can reduce the number of unintentional drownings in our community, keeping our children and residents safe around the water.

(please see attached photos)