



Winter
2023

Behind the scenes with SKAMANIA EMS & RESCUE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST AID TRAINING



Rebecca Desjaton

Unforeseen emergencies can occur at any time. First aid training is not just a skill, rather it is a vital tool that can help empower you to take immediate action when faced with an emergency. Whether at your home, work or while out and about in your community, being armed with first aid training may make the difference between life and death.

Skamania EMS & Rescue has long aimed to expand our public education courses, and 2024 is the year for us! As we move into the new year, we aim to provide regular bi-weekly First Aid/CPR/AED courses, continuing education courses for health care providers and introduce specialty education such as Wilderness First Aid, Babysitter courses and more.

Programming updates will be posted on our website, and you can find out more by emailing us at education@skamaniaems.com

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Skamania EMS & Rescue has been fortunate to have Cameron Weber working with our staff as an EMT resident. In April, Cameron was selected to work out of Station 7-1 in Stevenson and has made quite the name for himself. He has very quickly become a part of our team and we have enjoyed every minute working with him.

Cameron has always been interested in the medical field and is following in the footsteps of two family members who had previously been volunteers with Skamania EMS. Learning from both family and co-workers can offer unique perspectives and experiences that will no doubt contribute to his growth as a healthcare provider. He has also had the opportunity to see how differently our agency operates today, compared to when his grandfather served.



Cameron Weber

Cameron will be continuing as an EMT resident through 2024, working the latter part of his program in Underwood at our space with Skamania Fire District 3.

STATIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS STAFFED, ALWAYS CALL 911 IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY



992 Wind River Hwy
Carson

160 SW First
Stevenson

962 School House Rd
Underwood

10042 Washougal River Rd
Washougal

33241 SR 14
Skamania

COMMISSIONERS CORNER

WITH ANGIE HOLLIS



Commissioner Angie Hollis

What is the most undervalued professional skill? Why do you think that is?

- I would have to say calmness under pressure. When tensions get high either emotionally or one's surroundings are intense, it's easy for people to rise or exceed that intensity. The ability to stay calm and be the calming factor for those around you is a skill that is undervalued. You will often hear people talk about how calm someone was in an emergency and how it helped the situation. Those people are undervalued and often unrecognized (although I firmly believe they are the folks that never want recognition).

What is one piece of advice you will never forget?

- One of my favorite quotes is, "Character is doing the right thing when no one is looking." J.C. Watts. Not particularly a piece of advice from someone I know, but solid words to live by.

What is something that you are most proud of accomplishing in the role as our commissioner?

- Choosing the right person to lead the agency. Revisioning the agency structure and appointing Ann Lueders as the superintendent was by far the best decision the board has made since I've taken office. The agency has been better for it and I'm excited to see where the future leads.

Do you like to read or listen to podcasts? What are some of your favorites?

- My go to lady for Constitutional education is KrisAnne Hall. I've also started listening to The Minimalists podcasts.

What was your first job?

- My first unofficial job growing up was babysitting various kiddos and cousins. My first official job came when I was in a hybrid class in high school that combined several classes, called Law Network. The Law Network teachers partnered with a local forensic lab to hire from a pool of applicants from our class. I was selected, so my first real job was as a receptionist at a forensic lab.

WINTER WEATHER WARNINGS WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN WE PREPARE?

WINTER STORM WATCH

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or rain is possible.**

WINTER STORM WARNING

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or rain is expected.**

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Travel difficulties are expected.

WINTER STORM WARNING

Dangerous winter weather is expected within 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Considerable travel problems are expected.

BLIZZARD WARNING

Severe winter weather is expected within 12 to 36 hours or is occurring --including whiteout conditions.

DO NOT TRAVEL.



PLAN OF CARE

ANN LUEDERS, SUPERINTENDENT

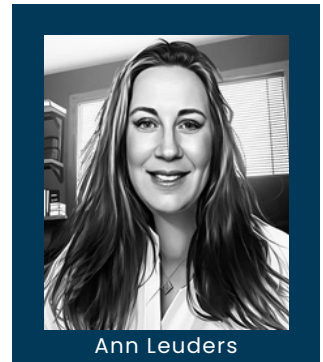
It has been inspiring to see Skamania EMS and Rescue expanding its reach and capabilities to better serve our community. Being able to stage personnel and apparatus in strategic locations shows our commitment to efficiency in emergency services; while having more medical personnel available allows for improvements in response when people are in need.

Sometimes, with growth and progress, there's a risk of losing touch with the essence of service and care. Ensuring a professional, efficient, and compassionate service remains at the forefront of our mission, and in 2024 Skamania EMS and Rescue will be taking a proactive approach to reassess our goals, ensuring they are in alignment with our core values.

We will be diving into the daily tasks of our providers during non-emergency periods and expanding upon our commitment to excellence, even in the routine aspects of our work. This introspection can uncover areas for improvement. Further, our efforts to expand public education opportunities and be present at community events will demonstrate a dedication to fostering strong, neighborly relationships. Through both avenues, our hope is the community will understand and be more involved in our work, which will provide stronger support and collaboration.

Moreover, our continued effort to streamline collaborative work for fire districts within the county is crucial for a well-coordinated emergency response system. Pausing, reflecting, and reevaluating speaks volumes about our agency's commitment to maintaining high standards while evolving and growing. The upcoming year will be a period of consolidation and reflection for Skamania EMS and Rescue. Taking the time to reflect on past successes and ensuring the continued excellence of existing programs and partnerships is just as crucial as implementing new ones. It demonstrates a commitment to maintaining the high standards and quality of services that have already been developed.

By dedicating time to reflection, upkeep, and community engagement, Skamania EMS and Rescue continues to demonstrate a forward-thinking and community-centered approach. We look forward to continuing our good work and, as always, appreciate the support of our citizens



Ann Leuders

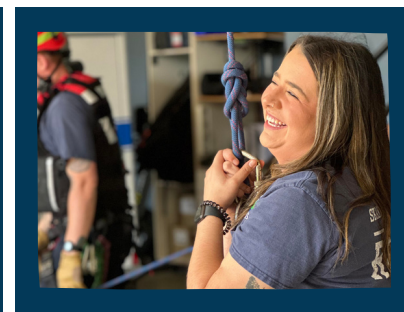


SUCCESS IN EMS



Samira Abel has been with our agency since 2019. Starting her career in EMS at just 17 years old, Samira knew early on that she wanted to serve her community. Following completion of an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) course and graduation from Stevenson High School, Samira applied for and was assigned to the newly (at that time) established role of EMS resident. She worked full time locally in the service industry while simultaneously serving the community and taking courses to further her knowledge to become an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Post COVID challenges in healthcare and school facility availability kept Samira from completing the EMT program, so she made the decision to move on from her residency but remain an active volunteer with our organization.

In 2023, Samira reapplied and was assigned to the residency program working out of station 31 in Underwood, and once again enrolled into a well-established Portland Community College EMT course. She worked diligently to build the skills, knowledge, and confidence and successfully obtained her EMT License.



Samira's kindness and grace in everything she does is a true testament to who she is at the core. She is an ardent student dedicated to personal and professional growth. She has flourished in her role within the EMS community of Skamania County. Samira will be ending her residency, for good this time, with Skamania EMS in March 2024, although she will continue to volunteer with our agency. We wish Samira all the success in her next endeavors.

Samira Abel has paved the way for more of our youth to move into the field of emergency medicine in Skamania County and support their community through the residency program. Please check out our website or Facebook page for future opportunities.

OPERATIONS REPORT



DNR FIRE RESPONSE



Skamania EMS & Rescue entered into an inter-local agreement with Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This agreement allows our agency to provide medical resources for fire line personnel. Our providers have worked to attend additional courses including physical fitness requirements to become a part of a select group of individuals that will be called to respond to wildfire incidents within the state of Washington and possibly Oregon. Last year our agency dedicated over 250 hours to serving our community, on the Tunnel 5 fire (Underwood) as well as other communities across the state.



Tunnel 5 Fire Underwood, WA 7/4-10 | 529 acres | 210 provider hours dedicated to this fire, SCEMS provided an ALS ambulance.

Newell Fire Goldendale, WA 7/23-28 | 61,313 acres | 97 provider hours dedicated to this fire, SCEMS provided 1 Line Paramedic

Eagle Bluff Fire Oroville, WA 7/31-8/8 | 16,428 acres | 121 provider hours dedicated to this event, SCEMS provided 1 Line Paramedic

Skamania EMS and Rescue was able to provide this service to the state without compromising our level of commitment or services to our community.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

