

“WHERE COMPASSION AND ACTION MEET.”



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Fire Suppression Coverage for Snag Island.

If you subscribe to the Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB), you can find additional information specific to given properties on their Fire Protection web page.

As most insurance companies have the same questions, we have developed this FAQ regarding fire responses to properties on Snag Island.

The issue arose when the WSRB decertified the volunteer station on 210th Avenue E, as that station did not have enough volunteer firefighters to be considered staffed with volunteers. This has been the case for several years, but the change in certification took effect in April of 2020.

1. Water Supply: Some insurance companies had not recognized the lack of water supply on Snag Island. The lack of water supply alone raises properties to a Protection Class 8.
2. Fire Station Location Requirements: For a property to receive the general rating of the district (Class 3 in this case) the property must be within 5 miles of a certified station. Unfortunately, the two nearest fire stations both hit that 5-mile delineation at the entrance to Snag Island. Not having a certified fire station within 5 miles, raises the specific property rating from the 8 to a 9A.
3. Where does the Fire Response come from:

<u>Station Name</u>	<u>Station Address</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Responding</u>	<u>Station Type</u>	<u>Staffing</u>	<u>Fire District</u>
STATION 33	500 182ND AVE E	Within 6 Miles	True	A	P	Valley Regional FA
STATION 112	12006 214TH AVE E	Within 6 Miles	True	A	P	EPFR
STATION 111	18421 VETERNS MEMORIAL DR	Within 6 Miles	True	A	P	EPFR
STATION 116	10515 234TH AVE E	Within 7 Miles	True	A	P	EPFR
STATION 114	3206 W TAPPS DR E	Within 8 Miles	True	A	P	EPFR
STATION 32	1951 R ST SE	Within 9 Miles	True	A	P	Valley Regional FA
STATION 119	350 SR 162	Within 9 Miles	True	A	V	EPFR
STATION 38	133 3RD AVE SE	Within 10 Miles	True	A	P	Valley Regional FA
STATION 113	800 HARRISON ST	Within 10 Miles	True	A	P	EPFR
BUCKLEY	611 S DIVISION ST	Within 10 Miles	False	A	C	BUCKLEY

4. What is dispatched to a structure fire and how much water is brought to the scene.

Type and number of Units	Water in Gallons
4 Fire Engines (each with 500 gallons)	2,000
1 Ladder Truck (300 gallons)	300
1 Tender (2,000 gallons)	2,000
2 Medic Units	
1 Battalion Chief	
(total of 18 to 21 firefighters)	Total 4,300 gallons on initial dispatch.

Additional water tenders are available from Orting and Enumclaw via mutual aid, making another 4,000 gallons of water available, but the travel time is impactful.

5. Using water from Lake Tapps: We do not routinely do this as 1) water levels vary, and during the draw down water is not close enough to reach with drafting hoses. 2) There are very limited locations where a 38,000-pound fire engine can get close enough to the water to draft from the lake. 3) We have used portable pumps, but they do not supply enough to control a house fire. They do work in most brush fire scenarios. As such, the lake is not a reliable source of water for fire control.

Dry hydrants may make lake water a potential source, but it would depend on location, length of pipe necessary would need to be installed by property owners or an association. The system would need to be designed by a fire protection engineer, and properly maintained by the owners. A dry hydrant will require the approval of the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. Additionally, the annual draw down of the water levels may make dry hydrants unreliable. A draft can only pull water from a limited distance, so running pipe farther out into the lake will not solve the issue.

In short, no we typically do not use water from Lake Tapps.

6. Using water from swimming pools: Again, access to the source is an issue. To draw enough water, a fire engine must get within a few feet of the pool. Using portable pumps can augment water supply but cannot provide for adequate fire flow for a structure fire.