

March 2022 Our Stories, Redmond Connections

Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

Hello, I'm Redmond Mayor Angela Birney, and welcome to another video in my monthly "Our Stories, Redmond Connections" series.

If you've ever walked by Fire Station 11 in Downtown Redmond, you've probably crossed paths with this sculpture watching over the small, peaceful courtyard alongside the building. I've always loved it because 'A Helping Hand' by Judy Phipps pays homage to the spirit of our firefighters here in Redmond.

It echoes the mission our Fire Department strives for every day. And it's reflected in both their sense of duty and commitment to service, as they tirelessly work to protect life, property, and the environment in the City of Redmond, as well as King County Fire District 34.

They are always here for us, ready for whenever we call. And perhaps these past two years alone have exemplified just how important our first responders are and the positive impacts their contributions have on our community.

This month, I thought it would be interesting if a few of our Redmond Fire Department members shared their stories about what it takes to provide a helping hand in our community each and every day.

Battalion Chief Shannon Norman, Redmond Fire Department

Hi, I'm Battalion Chief Shannon Norman. I started with the department in 2007 after working over nine years at City Hall.

Our mission at the Redmond Fire Department is to compassionately, proactively, and professionally protect life, property, and the environment. Additionally, we strive to continuously improve our service to the community.

The Suppression Division lends a helping hand to the community by sending fire engines, ladder trucks, and aid cars to mitigate emergent calls around our rapidly growing city. Last year, we responded to some 9,600 Emergency Medical Services calls and over 2,500 suppression calls.

Every time an apparatus leaves their station, our highly trained professional first responders are prepared to be at your service.

Fire Marshal Todd Short, Redmond Fire Department

Hi, I'm Fire Marshal Todd Short. I've been with the Fire Department for 28 years, the last 24 years in Fire Prevention.

Our mission focuses on preventing fires and emergencies before they happen through the application of current fire codes and performing fire and life safety inspections. Prevention also oversees the testing and proper maintenance of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems, so when incidents do occur, damage is mitigated.

Finally, prevention ensures rapid emergency response through proper addressing, the maintenance of fire lanes, and pre-fire planning. These elements work together to form the foundation of our mission to provide a helping hand to our community.

Firefighter Paramedic Liz Downs, Redmond Fire Department

My name is Liz Downs. I'm a firefighter paramedic and the lead for our Mobile Integrated Health program. I have worked at the Fire Department for the last 20 years. The Emergency Medical Services division plays a vital role in supporting our department's mission and providing a helping hand to our community.

Ensuring preparedness through training, prevention through Mobile Integrated Health, and emergency response at the basic and advanced life support levels, the EMS division provides world-class care. Mobile Integrated Health provides resources to allow our community members to live and age gracefully while reducing stress on the 911 system. The tiered response model used in Redmond places appropriate care where it is needed.

The cardiac arrest survival rate nationwide is 10%, but in Redmond our survival rate is 57%, which speaks to level of training and dedication to excellence that our crews provide.

Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

For me, our first responders play a crucial role in keeping us all safe and healthy. We are all fortunate to live in a community with an exceptional staff of first responders. I have a good family friend whose life was saved by a crew of our Medic One EMT's. His story is just one of many in our community.

Enough about me, I want to hear your thoughts. In the comments, I encourage you to share what you think about our incredible first responders using the hashtag #RedmondConnections. And if you're interested in learning more about all the things the Redmond Fire Department does to serve and meet the needs of our community, visit the City's website.

Thank you for making Redmond a great and safe place to live, work, and play. See you next time!