



Snohomish County FIRE DISTRICT 7

Earning Trust Through Action

For Immediate Release

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Operations Chief celebrates 44 years in the Fire Service

[Monroe, WA] – Snohomish County Fire District 7 is honored to announce the retirement of Assistant Chief of Operations Eric Andrews after 44 years in the fire service. Andrews will serve his final day with Fire District 7 on Friday, January 31, 2020.

“I know many fire department leaders proclaim how great their members are,” says Andrews, “but I can truly say I know of no agency, and I have seen many, that have more passionate fire service members than we have here are Fire District 7. What an honor to have been a small part in this incredible organization for so many years.”



Andrews began his firefighting career in 1976 where he started as a volunteer with Snohomish County Fire District 26. He was hired by Snohomish County Fire District 7 in July of 1978, as one of only two full-time employees at the time.

Throughout his career, Andrews served the citizens of Fire District 7 in many capacities. He worked his way through the ranks serving as Firefighter/EMT, Lieutenant, Training Officer, Battalion Chief, and then was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations. As the Assistant Chief of Operations he was in charge of the district’s day-to-day operations while planning for the future and seeking best practices.

During his career, Andrews helped to secure over \$3.4 million in various grants. It was due to his hard work and expertise that Fire District 7 was able to improve service to our citizens and create safer working environments for firefighters helped by these grants. One of the grants, a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grant (SAFER), allowed Fire District 7 to hire 16 additional firefighters to meet the rising service demand. Fire District 7 was also awarded two Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) grants, radio communication grant, personnel protective clothing grant, public education aids, and new fire apparatus, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Andrews was instrumental in the development of multiple programs and teams throughout the county. For example the Cooperative Interagency Training programs that was started in 1998 and the Northwest Incident Management Team (NWIMT) that formed in 1996. He served as the NWIMT Operations Section Chief during large scale incidents such as the Oso mudslide and major fires in our state.

He also has served as the Northwest Region Coordinator for the State Fire Defense Committee for the last 13 years. In this position he coordinates the allocation of resources, apparatus and personnel from

fire departments in a five county region to deploy throughout the state and nationwide during natural disasters and major events such as wildfires. He will continue to serve as the coordinator after retiring from Fire District 7.

Andrews will continue to serve as the Fire Chief of Sky Valley Fire in Gold Bar after his retirement from Fire District 7.

All are welcome to attend the retirement flag lowering ceremony to be held on January 31, 2020 at Fire Station 71 – 8010 180th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98296. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 am.

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On January 1, 2020 Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 merged agencies. The new district serves over 162,000 people over 140 square miles and is dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, and taking care of people in a fiscally responsible manner. We serve the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, and Monroe along with the unincorporated areas surrounding these communities. In 2019, our emergency personnel responded to more than 17,000 emergency calls. Through community support, we have built one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Snohomish County with highly-trained personnel, facilities, apparatus, and progressive rescue programs. We appreciate your support and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.

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