



Chief's Report 08/26/2021

Operations

- The Operations Division continues to meet with leadership from Local 2781 about bargaining impacts towards House Bill 1310 as well as the vaccination mandate by Governor Inslee.
- The Deputy Chief of Operations has had the opportunity to meet with several members in the last week about preparation for future promotional opportunities into the future. Good luck to all of those who are beginning the process of preparing for future promotions within Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue.
- Given demand for service and the "red flag" weather that the region experienced recently, as well as the Evergreen State Fair coming, it was decided by Operations to have our wildland team be unavailable for deployments out of the area until after the fair. The team will reevaluate deployment availability beginning on the 7th of September.

Emergency Medical Services

- Staff attended the Emergency Medical Services Summit last week in Tucson Arizona. The Summit was paid for by a grant and brought together 40 EMS leaders from across the country to discuss issues in EMS. Topics that were discussed were staffing and retention, Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement, hospital wall times and budget issues.
- Staff are in the process of developing an agreement with Snohomish County Fire District 17 which would facilitate their newly hired paramedics to ride with our Advanced Life Support Units in order to receive mentorship and complete mandated training requirements.
- Operations continues to monitor the effects of House Bill 1310. This last week the Medical Service Officers have been meeting with crews virtually to discuss House Bill 1310.

- Noah Young has graduation from the UW/Harborview Paramedic Training Program. He is working on days to get caught up with required fire training and to complete the Snohomish County Paramedic requirements. Once Noah completes his day assignment he will be assigned to C- Shift North Battalion to start his Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue Paramedic Integration Program.

Training

- Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue's six new recruits are in week five of the pre-academy. The Training Division and Snohomish Fire District #4 have the recruits working together on basic fire skills this week. The recruits are scheduled to start the Academy 9/13/2021. Additionally, three probationary Lieutenants will be assigned to the Academy starting September 7th.
- The Training Division continues to update the 2022 and long-range training plan. We are currently preparing the 2022 schedule and working with Snohomish Fire.
- Staff completed their review of the Lexipol policies assigned to the division.
- The Training Division continues to work on Category 8 writing for the accreditation process.
- Human Resources and Training have started the process of Entry level firefighter testing. We are looking at the hiring testing process for possible changes in the future.
- Human Resources and Training are preparing for the Driver Operator test scheduled for October.
- Human Resources and Training are discussing future tests for the Hazmat team and Paramedic students.
- The Training Division are conducting first round evaluations with 2021-1 probation class.
- The Training Division has been conducting exit post probation interviews with the class that just completed probation.
- The first round of evaluations for the newly promoted Lieutenants are being completed by their Battalion Chiefs. The book The Men, the Mission and Me has been distributed.
- The Training Division and Human Resources are researching training on equal employment opportunities and productive work environment. We will bring in the

IAFF, Teamsters and the Shop to discuss a plan to review and implement the training.

- The Training Division is changing the user names in Target Solutions to reflect the new email addresses.

Health and Safety

- The Health and Safety Division continues to be part of discussions with the leadership from Local 2781 about Governor Inslee's vaccination mandate.
- Health and Safety has begun scheduling members for their annual physicals coming up in September. The West Battalion is scheduled for September 4th through the 7th. The East Battalion is scheduled between the 12th and 15th. The North Battalion is scheduled to participate in their physicals from the 20th through the 23rd.

Fire and Life Safety

- The Public Affairs team is now officially part of the Fire and Life Safety Division. A big welcome to Kaitlin King!
- Staff are working with Human Resources to recruit a Public Information and Education Officer.
- The Sultan Inter-local agreement was approved by legal and has been sent to Senior Staff for review. Once approved by Senior Staff, the Inter-local agreement needs to be reviewed by the City of Sultan for comment.
- Staff are meeting this week to review the Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Coverage document process.
- The final draft of the Strategic Plan is complete. The Plan will soon be vetted by the Community Leader Advisory Committee.
- The accreditation core team and category managers are working to complete their technical writing within their respective performance indicators.
- The Standards Committee is in the process of reviewing the Tier I and Tier II policies.

Logistics

- Facility Signs – Signco/DEK Enterprises Incorporated has signed the Public Works Contract with SRF to install new Station signs. We are in the design phase and will be bringing some drafts to the Board soon.
- The Logistics Division helped the County distribute all the COVID supplies that were being housed at the fairgrounds as this building is needed to be cleared out prior to the Evergreen State Fair.
- Masterworks Roofing Inc. finished with the new roof installation at station 81.
- We obtained the demolition permit for the structures on the future station 84 property. The demolition started on August 17 and is complete.
- The new Logistics forklift was shipped from the factory and should be delivered to us by the end of August.

Administration

Staff are working to educate the public about the Fire Levy vote which will take place this November

- Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.27 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.
 - Voters last approved a fire levy lid lift in 2017.
- Inflation and costs for emergency services are outpacing revenue.
 - Call volumes have increased 10.2% compared to the same time period last year.
 - SRF is limited to a 1% levy revenue increase per year
 - Inflation is 6.3%.
 - New construction fees provide a one-time payment, but that funding is inconsistent.
- We've made almost \$1.5 million in budget cuts, but it's not enough to keep up with rising costs and demand for service. Budget cuts include:
 - Community Resource Paramedic program
 - Firefighter training
 - Fire and life safety prevention program
 - Some apparatus replacement.
- Growth and higher call volumes mean there is a need for more emergency services – not less.

- More homes do not mean more levy revenue.
- The fire levy rate actually decreases to limit a fire district to roughly the same amount of levy revenue, plus 1%.
- The lid lift would last for one year and cost the owner of a home valued at \$500,000 an additional \$9.58 per month (\$115 per year). Revenue would be used to:
 - Maintain staffing levels
 - Restore firefighter training and fire and life safety prevention programs
 - Replace aging fire engines and ambulances; and,
 - Fund fire station projects throughout the district.
- Fire districts are legally required to operate under a balanced budget. We have a plan if the lid lift fails, but it means more cuts and longer response times.
 - Take money from a reserve account for stations and apparatus to fund daily operations.
 - Borrow money to fund these capital items, which would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments.
 - Reduce public outreach, fire prevention, maintenance, training, and specialized rescue programs.
 - Layoff emergency personnel, which would result in service level cuts and longer response times.

Liz Loomis Communications Consultant

Following the departure of our Public Information Officer, the District has contracted with Liz Loomis to help us with District Communications. Liz and her team bring years of successful experience in communications. We welcome Liz and her team!

The Governor's COVID-19 Vaccination Proclamation

Staff are working collaboratively with the Firefighters Union and legal council to develop a policy that supports the Governor's COVID-19 Vaccination Proclamation.