



## Chief's Report 11.10.20

### COVID-19

District personnel remain focused on the District's mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment in a fiscally responsible manner. Given the current COVID-19 outbreak, extra attention has been given to the safety of our personnel and the District's response to care for our communities. We have been working closely with our Snohomish County regional partners including the other fire/EMS agencies, Snohomish County EMS, DEM, Dept. of Health, hospitals, the cities we serve, the school Districts we serve, and others.

- The Nation, Washington State, and Snohomish County have seen an increase in COVID 19 cases. EMS alarms with patients with flu-like symptoms have increased in Snohomish County.
- On 11/6, one employee tested positive with COVID 19 and is in isolation. Two other employees who were exposed to the employee who tested positive are in quarantine and have not tested positive at this time.
- Labor disruption is stable.
- Daily training is ongoing for all responders regarding personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, and response protocols.
- The Infectious Control Task Force (ICTF) continues to work with the Safety Committee, Operations, Logistics, Technical Services, and Administration to monitor and develop best practices with the goal of maintaining a healthy environment for all employees and citizens.
- COVID 19 testing is now being performed by Everett Fire for all Snohomish County Fire/EMS Responders.
- Staff are working with leaders from Snohomish and Island Counties along with Snohomish County Emergency Management ESF4 and the Health District for administration of the Covid-19 Vaccine. (COVID-19 Counter Measures Group) Currently we have set up weekly meetings to work out the plan. This will be a phased approach.
  - **Phase 1:** Will be vaccination of First Responders (Police, Fire, Dispatch, DEM, Private Ambulance) Under the MPD's supervision, we are evaluating the possibility of training Paramedics and EMT's to administer vaccines.
  - **Phase 2:** Will be a plan to vaccinate the public through a mass vaccination plan. The Monroe Fairgrounds has been listed as one of the possible sites.

### Operations

- Staff has completed a video for 2021 Company-Chief Inspections. The video will be previewed at the November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Leadership meeting.
- Year to date, SRFR has responded to 73 Fire Residential Confirmed and 34 Fire Commercial Confirmed incidents. Operations is working with data team and the Community Risk Reduction Division to plot on a map these locations, query the cause and determine if there are any commonalities so we can place a point of emphasis on in 2021 to reducing this risk.

### EMS

- Staff are developing an updated EMS training platform.
- Staff and regional EMS leaders are evaluating the Pulse Point program.
- Staff are planning for an EMS workshop with the DC of EMS and MSO's in November.

- The District will be seeking candidates for Student Paramedic with an examination process planned for the 2021-2022 Paramedic school year.
- Staff is evaluating the future of the SRFR Community Resource Paramedic Program (CRP).

### **Policy & Procedure**

- Lexipol has completed cross-reference of current SRFR Policies and Procedures to Lexipol recommended content.
- Policy and Procedure Committee openings exist for a Firefighter, Paramedic and Driver/Operator to sit on the SRFR Standards Committee.

### **MSDS Online**

- The development of a digital MSDS Online program has been completed.
- A 15-minute video and PowerPoint will be forwarded to training for inclusion in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

### **Health & Safety**

- An on-site flu shot clinic was recently administered for SRFR employees. SRFR ordered 160 doses for members and will have a Health Force nurse on-site for 12 days.
- Staff are planning to initiate annual SCBA fit testing in November.

### **Accreditation**

- SRFR's Commission of Fire Accreditation International account has been updated with current agency information and all core team members have had an account. Our registered status expires on 1/9/21. We will need to apply for applicant status prior to expiration. This status change will include the application fee of \$8,750.
- The Standards of Cover (SOC)/Community Risk Assessment (CRA) team continues to develop an execution process.

### **Regional FOC Planning**

- Staff developed a regional plan to staff a County-wide FOC at South County Fire in anticipation of potential civil unrest on election day. Ultimately, the FOC was not needed.

### **Training**

- Training data management platform Target Solutions is in the process of being updated.
- Congratulations to Gary Fatkin who recently graduated from Columbia Southern University with an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science.
- Congratulations to Marck Fujiwara-Herbert who completed the "Top Step" Driver/Operator requirements.
- The Snohomish County Fire Training Recruit Academy concluded on November 5. Congratulations to our new Firefighters Thomas Brown, Aaron DeSalvo, Eric Reygers, Kristopher Christensen, Tim Lambach. Thomas Brown was awarded the "Brass Tip" for his excellence in performing engine company operations, Congratulations Thomas!
- Special thanks to Company Officers Bill Gunterman and Matt James who provided outstanding leadership to every recruit at the Academy.
- Congratulations to Captain Joe Basta who has served as an Executive Officer at the Academy since its inception. After leading and administering Academy operations, Captain Basta will be returning to SRFR Operations with a shift assignment at Station 82. Thank you Capt. Basta,!
- A hearty thank you to Lt. Sam Langheld who stepped up to replace Capt. Basta at the Academy.

- Chief O'Brien delivered the Keynote address at the graduation ceremony.
- We have a Post Academy Training module including Rescue Systems One during the week of November 16 – 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff are evaluating SRFR participation in the ESTA Fire Academy in Gold Bar.
- The hallway firefighting prop that was at Station 31 has been moved to the District 4 training facility. We are in the planning phase to build a UL dimensioned house prop for hose handling, water application and fire attacks. Currently we are adding a staircase to an existing building for hose handling.
- The SRFR Quarterly Leadership Meeting was held on 11/4. Each Section and Division provided reports to attendees regarding current news and updates.

## **Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Planning Team has completed a **draft** Mission, Vision, and Guiding Values.

**Vision:** We will be a proactive regional emergency services leader by partnering to provide safe communities for people to live, work and explore.

**Mission:** Save lives, protect property, safeguard the environment, and take care of people.

**Values:** Teamwork, Respect, Accountability, Service, Integrity

The District's Community Leader Advisory Committee (CLAC) first meeting kicked off on October 27, 2020. The CLAC is made up of 28 representatives from the area we serve consisting of citizens, business leaders, government officials, fire commissioners, county council members, and Washington State legislators. We plan to set up two to three meetings with the CLAC lasting 1.5 to 2 hours. These meetings will be oriented to check in with the Community regarding the strategic planning progress of the internal workgroup and seek the following input and feedback:

- The District's strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats
- The District's Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Objectives and overall Strategic Plan
- How we can better serve everyone in the District
- Other topics as needed

## **Annexation (City of Lake Stevens/Snohomish County)**

The District has remained engaged in the proposed annexation process by the City of Lake Stevens to annex an area in South East Lake Stevens.

## **Advanced Life Support Interlocal Agreement (ALS ILA)**

An initial draft of a standardized draft Advanced Life Support Interlocal was reviewed by the Finance Committee on 10/29 and is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners on in November. The goal of the ALS ILA is to provide a standardized agreement for all the Districts served by SRFR. On 11/2, staff met with Granite Falls Fire to discuss the future of ALS Service. A message of partnership and collaboration was conveyed.

## **Recruitment**

The District is currently recruiting entry level firefighters. The application period was open until 10.4.20. First round interviews have been completed. The District projects a need for at least eight replacement firefighters in 2021.

## **Washington State Auditor**

The Washington State Auditor will begin an audit process for the District for 2019 on 10.12.20.

## **2021 Budget**

Staff continue development of a proposed 2021 Budget for SRFR. *Transparency and Stability* highlight the process. Following Senior Staff Approval, the draft Budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee on 10/29. The draft Budget will then be presented to the Board for an initial review and a public hearing on 11.12. The deadline for Budget approval is 11.27.20.

## **Rice Fergus Miller Site Visit**

As a component of the capital planning process, representatives from the District's architect, Rice, Fergus, Miller toured SRFR fire stations and facilities on 10/28 and 10/29.

## **City of Mill Creek Contract for Emergency Services**

Representatives from SRFR and the City of Mill Creek initiated contract discussions on Tuesday, October 20. A second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17.

## **Teamster's Negotiations**

The Teamsters Union has made a formal request to initiate contract discussions. The current Teamster's contract expires at the end of 2020. A "kick off" negotiations meeting with the Teamsters and management was held on 10/29.

## **Sno 911 Tower Agreement**

Staff are waiting for a property and facility assessment by Rice, Fergus, Miller in order to proceed with a lease agreement for a radio tower with Snohomish 911 on the property of Station 83.

## **Managing Physician**

Staff are updating a contract for Dr. Talley to continue serving as the District's Managing Physician.

## **IAFF Contract Negotiations 10/27**

The District and IAFF Local 2781 continue discussions regarding a new collective bargaining agreement with a meeting scheduled for 10/27. The current agreement expires at the end of 2020.

## **Public Affairs**

- 10/28, PIO Heather Chadwick and Chief O'Brien partnered with Lake Stevens Police Chief John Dyer to present an update to the Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce. Topics included SRFR operations, and highlights of the new District following the merger.
- 11/10, Chief O'Brien will attend the Monroe City Council meeting to represent SRFR as the City Council will acknowledge and support Fire/EMS and Police responders.

## **Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mike Fitzgerald**

DC/Fire Marshal Mike Fitzgerald has accepted an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal position with South County Fire. He will be greatly missed at SRFR. His transition date has not been determined. Thanks to AC Fitzgerald for his great service to SRFR!

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief