



## Chief's Report 11.23.20

### 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.
- 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.
- SRFR is preparing to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination process. An ultra-cold freezer was purchased by Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. Other agencies that purchased freezers were South County Fire and Marysville Fire. The plan is for the three agencies to be the storage sites for vaccines for all Snohomish county agencies.
- Last week four SRFR personnel tested positive for COVID-19 and 15 personnel were quarantined from exposure to the infected individuals. This is from two separate events where personnel were infected while off-duty. All staff exposures while in the workplace are considered low risk. Additional guidance and mandates were released last week to reinforce procedures.

### Operations

With rising COVID-19 cases internally and the possibility that there could be a reduction of possible assistance from surrounding agencies to assist SRFR with staffing, we are in the process of updating our internal Continuity of Operations plan from last spring.

### EMS

Personnel participated in the final Run-Review of the year and Dr. Keay's last Run-Review as one of our Supervising Physicians. We thanked Dr. Keay for her amazing six years of service and she was presented with flowers and a card to acknowledge our appreciation.

## **Training**

- Five new probationary firefighters have completed Rescue Systems One last week. This week they will be involved in shift orientation and will begin their official assignment to shift on 12/1/20.
- With the goal of improving the probation program, the Training Division is interviewing all personnel who recently completed probation.

## **Health and Safety**

The SRFR annual flu shot clinic is complete. 101 personnel took advantage of this opportunity. The District has retained 59 flu vaccine doses for people who would like a shot. A Memo will soon be released with details regarding additional flu shots.

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

After extensive consideration and by mutual agreement, SRFR has officially withdrawn from the annexation process in South East Lake Stevens. Through the process, the City of Lake Stevens and the District discovered that our participation in the proposed annexation was not significant and neither improved nor hindered the annexation process. SRFR will continue to serve the South East Lake Stevens area as it does today with no change in service.

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

Staff continues to update a draft of a standardized Advanced Life Support Interlocal Agreement. The agreement was reviewed by the Finance Committee on 10/29 and discussed in by the Finance Committee on 11.19.20. Staff are in the process of updating an implementation timeline.

## **Capital Facilities Comprehensive Study**

As a component of Task 1 "Inventory of Existing Stations" of the Capital Facilities Comprehensive Study, representatives from the District's architect, Rice, Fergus, Miller toured SRFR fire stations and facilities on 10/28 and 10/29. Pending the Board's approval, Task 2 "Identify Facility Needs" is slated to begin in early 2021.

## **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 occurred on Tuesday, November 17.

## **Teamster's Negotiations**

A "kick off" contract negotiations meeting with the Teamsters and management was held on 10/29.

## **Annexation of Unprotected Parcels in the District Service Area**

Staff continue to review unprotected parcels in the District service area in order to develop a plan for annexation which would legally join the parcels into the District.

## **Managing Physician**

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

## **IAFF Contract Negotiations**

The District and IAFF Local 2781 continued discussions regarding a new collective bargaining agreement with a meeting on 10/27. The current agreement expired at the end of 2019.

## **Public Affairs**

- 11/10, Chief O'Brien attended the Monroe City Council meeting to represent SRFR. The City Council acknowledged and supported Fire/EMS and Police responders.
- 11/17, Chief O'Brien and PIO Chadwick presented a service update to the Monroe City Council.

## **Marine Response**

11/20/20, SRFR Marine responders assisted the Snohomish County Sherriff's Office and U.S. Coast Guard with an underwater drone search for the missing Tulalip Police Officer.

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

DC/Fire Marshal Mike Fitzgerald has accepted an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal position with South County Fire and will end his tenure with SRFR on 11.30.20. He will be greatly missed at SRFR. Thanks to AC Fitzgerald for his great service to Monroe Fire, Fire Dist. 7 and now SRFR!

Take care and stay safe,

Kevin O'Brien, Fire Chief