



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
Board Meeting
1:00 p.m.
September 27, 2023**

PRESENT:

Thad Hovis	President South County Fire
Dave Kraski	Vice-President North County Fire
Eric Andrews	Medium Agencies Director Sky Valley Fire
Keith Strotz	Small Agencies Director SCFD19 (absent)
Jim Haverfield	Treasurer SCFD17 (absent)
Travis Hots	Immediate Past President SCFD22
Susan Bjorling	Executive Assistant South County Fire

A. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1304 hours.

B. **Adopt/Adjust Agenda**

Chief Hovis submitted an addition to the Board's agenda:

Terry Peterson with Sno911 has requested that the Executive Board shift the October E-Board meeting to October 18th from 10:30 am- noon to facilitate hosting Berk to lead a follow-up to the September 20th session.

C. **Minutes**

Action: Chief Kraski made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2023 meeting. Chief Andrews seconded the motion. Minutes were approved, with Chief Hovis abstaining due to his absence from the August meeting.

D. **Old Business**

PFAS Countywide Communication – Ready for distribution

The letter was reviewed by the E-Board and was presented to the membership for input at the September 20th general membership meeting.

Based on feedback from members there and other information gathered over the past few months, including the fact that a large manufacturer of uniforms, Workrite, has released a letter stating that their clothing contains no PFAS, the Executive Board has decided that county wide distribution of the proposed letter is no longer necessary. Chief Kraski shared that he feels each agency has made the changes they'd prefer to make.

A motion to refrain from sending the letter was made by Chief Kraski with a second from Chief Hots. The motion passed unanimously.

E. New Business

County Evacuation Plan by DEM

Chief Andrews shared when the Bolt Creek Fire occurred, he was provided some perspective as to what's involved in the process of calling for an area to be evacuated within the county. He sought clarification and when asked by Chief Andrews, Snohomish County DEM stated that evacuation zones are set by the County Executive and the Executive's Office issues the orders to evacuate.

DEM has since shared some evacuation plans with Chief Andrews. Those plans delineate that when evacuations are necessary the County Executive will issue the orders. Chief Andrews consulted legal counsel who confirmed that there is not a law that states the County Executive is the only one who can issue such orders. Chief Andrews checked with several counties in the state and a few shared that they place that responsibility with their sheriff's office, but the zones themselves are determined by the fire agencies.

Chief Andrews would like to establish clear evacuation plans withing Snohomish County based on input from incident commanders. Logically, police incident evacuations would be managed by law enforcement. Fire Incidents would be managed by fire agencies. The different types of agencies (police/fire) would determine their different levels of evacuation. This would ensure that the appropriate parties with the necessary skills and equipment will respond as quicky as possible. During an incident the incident commander would make the call to Sno911 to tell them to send out the evacuation notice, without delaying the process by having to contact the County Executive.

Chiefs Kraski, Hots and Hovis concurred with Chief Andrews' assessment and would be in favor of placing the authority with the incident commanders in each situation. When lives are on the line, processes must be streamlined. A clear, comprehensive evacuation plan outlining these responsibilities will help to avoid confusion and developing specific plans should be the priority.

The group reached a consensus that the best next steps will be engaging law enforcement and the County Chiefs Association to write letters to the Department of Emergency Management to begin the process of outlining specific plans. Chief Andrews will draft a letter for review. Chief Hots will reach out to Sheriff Fortney to discuss this issue with his office.

- **PTCC**

Chief Kraski shared that there is a vacancy on PTCC. He is seeking the input of the Board as to whether an employee from North County, Firefighter Zach Hanson, might be eligible to fill that role. It was determined that this issue will be raised at the October 2nd General membership meeting where volunteers will be solicited, and interest gauged.

- **SCFCA General Membership Meeting – October 2nd, 2023**

Chiefs Hovis and Kraski may both be unavailable on October 2nd. Chief Hots, as past president, has agreed that he will run the meeting, should his schedule allow. Chief Andrews also agreed to step in to facilitate, if necessary.

- **Expiring Terms – Elected Officers**

Chief Hovis will not seek reelection as President of the Association. Chief Kraski has agreed to accept a nomination to the role. Chief Hots shared that nominations for the role of President will be accepted over the next three months. New officers will be installed January 1st. Chief Hovis will become Immediate Past President and serve for one year.

The official nomination period will start at the October 2nd general membership meeting.

The goal is to continue to share institutional knowledge and create a plan of succession.

- **Reschedule – October E Board Meeting**

Terry Peterson has requested that we shift the October E-Board meeting to October 18th from 10:30 am- noon to facilitate hosting Berk for a follow-up to the September 20th session.

A motion was made by Chief Kraski and seconded by Chief Andrews.
Unanimously approved.

F. Committee Updates

None

G. Announcements/Good of the Order

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1333 hours. Motion made by Chief Kraski and seconded by Chief Hots.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Susan Bjorling
Executive Assistant, Office of the Fire Chief
South County Fire

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18th, 2023
10:30 am - Noon

Attachments:

Workrite Communication re: PFAS



January 2023

At Workrite Fire Service, part of Bulwark Protection, we maintain a robust program of product stewardship which restricts the use of certain chemicals on the fabrics we purchase for use in the clothing we manufacture. No PFAS compounds are present in the finishes applied to fabrics used in Workrite Fire Service products.

Denise N. Statham
Technical Services Director