



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association**  
**General Membership**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**October 2, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Thad Hovis  
Dave Kraski  
Jim Haverfield  
Travis Hots  
Kevin O'Brien  
Eric Andrews  
Keith Strotz

**President** South County Fire (Absent)  
**Vice President** North County Fire (Absent)  
**Secretary/Treasurer** Snohomish County FPD 17  
**Immediate Past President**, Snohomish County FPD 22 (Absent)  
**Large Agency Director** Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (Absent)  
**Medium Agency Director** Snohomish County FPD 19  
**Small Agency Director** Snohomish County FPD 26

Mike Calvert	Everett Fire
Paul Gagnon	Everett Fire
Jennett Nielson	Marysville Fire
Ned Vander Pol	Marysville Fire
Glen Albright	Mukilteo Fire
Troy Elmore	Mukilteo Fire
Blake Engnes	Mukilteo Fire
John Cermak	North County Fire
Chris Dickison	North County Fire
Dr. Ryan Keay	Snohomish County MPD/SCEMS
Terry Peterson	Sno911
Don Waller	Snohomish County FPD 4
Greg Osborne	Snohomish County FPD 4
Lori Burke	Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office
Todd Anderson	South County Fire
John Chalfant	South County Fire
Bob Eastman	South County Fire
Shawneri Guzman	South County Fire
Joe Hughes	South County Fire
Dave Ruddell	South County Fire
David Wells	South County Fire
Leonard Boche	Northwest Business Services

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1132 hours.

**A. Adopt / Adjust Agenda** No changes or additions to the agenda.

Chief Andrews made a motion to adjust the agenda to add a discussion about the Washington State Fire Chiefs setting their legislative priorities on October 10th. Chief Eastman seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

**B. Minutes**

- **Discussion:** No discussion.
- **Action: Motion** by Chief Eastman to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023, meeting. **Seconded** by Chief Cermak. **Approved** unanimously.

**C. Treasurer's Report**

- **Discussion:**

Per Chief Haverfield no revenue was collected throughout the summer months. The only recent expenditure has been to place an order for checks in the amount of \$26.80.

**D. Old Business**

**Nurse Navigator Program**

In September a presentation was provided to the General Membership (September 13th - Special Meeting). The recommendation was to move forward. The first years' implementation fees will be covered by NorthSound ACH. Terry Peterson presented a proposed motion:

Accept the committee recommendation to implement the GMR Nurse Navigator program, including the special assessment through the SNO911 cost-share formula for system costs not covered by grant funds, with a goal of implementing the system January 1, 2024.

*Implementation and oversight will be through Dispatch Steering Committee (DSC). Program will be reviewed on a continual basis, with a clear recommendation each year on continuation of the program.*

Chief Cermak made a motion to accept the motion as presented. Chief Vander Pol seconded the motion. Further discussion was invited. The group felt all questions had been answered and addressed in the previous weeks' discussions. The motion passed unanimously. Next steps include presentation to the Sno911 Board.

**E. New Business**

**PTCC Vacancy**

There are vacancies on PTCC presented by the departures of Chief Neuhoff and Steve Guptill.

A request for volunteers was put forward.

Zach Hanson from North County RFA will fulfill the role.

**County Evacuation Plan by DEM**

Chief Andrews has been investigating county evacuation plans.

Various issues within the current plans require attention. One that has been raised is what people might do if they become stranded on Hwy 2. It will be important to discuss where people might go to avoid fire. The question is whether they should evacuate their vehicles and proceed into the river.

Another important point to consider is who establishes evacuation zones within our county. Currently in Snohomish County the County Executive delineates zones and issues evacuation orders.

Chief Andrews feels this responsibility and authority should be designated to the "incident commander" in each situation. In some counties this has been established to be the Sheriff's Office. However, it may be more logical to have each agency, depending on the type of situation, make the appropriate determinations in the best interests of community members and personnel.

Chief Eastman asked whether there might be any legal ramifications to fire agencies taking on this responsibility. Chief Andrews had previously checked with legal counsel, Brian Snure, and Brian could find no laws indicating that this would create any legal issue.

Chief Andrews put forth a motion to have SCFCA President Hovis produce correspondence to be sent to DEM encouraging them to create evacuation plans that will allow the appropriate agencies to delineate zones order evacuations, based on the direction of the incident commander and/or unified command- fire or law enforcement. SCFCA would like to see this established as standard operating procedure within Snohomish County. Chief Cermak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Hots will communicate with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to engage with them and request that they present a similar letter to DEM, ensuring more efficient collaboration between agencies.

### **Nominations - President**

Nominations for the role of SCFCA President are open. Members should feel free to submit nominations to Chief Hots.

## **Washington Fire Chiefs Legislative Priorities - October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Per Chief Andrews, the State Chiefs will meet to discuss setting their legislative priorities on October 10th.

Chief Andrews would like to see part-time/volunteer personnel recognized in the presumptive disease qualification categories. He shared that he feels it would be valuable to allow people to count/earn credit for their early years (part-time, volunteer years) when being considered by the State regarding the receipt of benefits.

Chief Eastman made a motion to have SCFCA produce a letter to the State Chiefs' Association encouraging them to make this issue one of their legislative priorities for the next session. DC Todd Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **F. Reports**

**1. DEM/Incident Management** Lucia Schmit (absent)

**2. Sno911** Terry Peterson

Terry thanked everyone who attended the Berk meeting on September 20th. Berk will have recommendations for the Executive Board in October. They will present final recommendations in November.

**3. Fire Commissioners** Don Waller

Chief Waller will provide information on the Nurse Navigator program to the Commissioners at their next meeting.

**4. Fire Marshal** Lori Burke

Lori apologized to the group about the process utilized in lifting the most recent burn ban. Some members were informed through the media, which is not ideal. Typically, fire agencies are notified in advance of public disclosure. The issue has been addressed and the process will be handled in a different way moving forward.

Chief Andrews asked about resuming in-person/conference call meetings with the Fire Marshal. In the past, there were meetings arranged that allowed for some discussion. This may help to avoid confusion surrounding burn bans and other issues. Questions were asked about further dividing the county into various zones. Lori will make a note and investigate setting meetings for 2024.

#### **5. Fire TAC** Eric Andrews

Chief Andrews shared that there have been several deployments to eastern Washington, and we have a few resources in Oregon right now. There will be a long-term IMT presence in Lahaina beginning October 16th. He thanked everyone for providing resources.

#### **6. Legislative** Shaughn Maxwell (Absent)

Chief Eastman shared that he has heard there has been a push from some folks to establish "tax improvement districts or "TIFs." Future dollars from local agencies could be taken and put into accounts that are managed by a Board. It's unclear as to how the process might affect our area. This is a federal program, and it could have a negative impact on agencies that are within designated jurisdictions. It may be beneficial for SCFCA to investigate this issue and be aware of anything that may be heading our way.

At the last legislative session, they appointed a committee to monitor the Fire Marshal's offices. They are discussing making Fire Marshal's offices their own offices, rather than keeping them under State control.

#### **7. Fire Prevention** Shawneri Guzman

October 8-14th is Fire Prevention Week. The focus will be on cooking safely. The county PIO group will send agencies messaging and a social media toolkit. Information on lithium-ion batteries and smoke alarm technology will also be included.

There is a new AFH training that will be required for all AFH and assisted living facilities. It will teach them the appropriate use for 911. It will teach them how to prepare to call 911 and will also educate them about lifts. It's important for agencies to pay close attention to what's being taught to the AFHs and facilities so that everyone is on the same page. The hope is to drive down certain calls, especially those involving lift assists.

Resources:

- PPT: [Emergency Medical Services & Long Term Care \(whca.org\)](https://www.whca.org)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLmITc8oOog&feature=youtu.be>

Current Training Requirements: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/training/training-requirements-adult-family-homes>

There will be a conference soon for AFH and information will be found on their Council website. DSHS is also sending out the information. The expectation is that the training will be done in a timely manner. The Washington Fire Chiefs' Association received the information from Shawneri Guzman the final week of September.

#### **8. EMS** Roger Vares (absent)

Dr. Key thanked District 4 for hosting a countywide EMS conference. There was a great deal of participation, and it went very well. The new SCEMS newsletter will be sent out this month (October). It's been very well received and will continue to be an excellent resource.

Important contact information for several agencies is missing from the SCEMS database. Dr. Key asked that people contact Jennifer to update.

EMS "theme" for 2024 will be the "Year of the Airway" in Snohomish County.

#### **9. Training Consortium** John Cermak

Chief Cermak shared that training has been going well. No major challenges have arisen. The temporary buildings have arrived and will be put up soon. He thanked everyone for attending the ribbon cutting ceremony and supporting training countywide.

#### **10. Training Officers/Safety** Troy Elmore

The Snohomish County Health and Safety Officers (SCHSO) continued meetings through the summer break working primarily on carcinogen exposure risk reduction, PFAS, and wellness issues.

The first Tri-County Health and Safety Officers meeting between Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties was held with BC Hudson representing Snohomish County. The meeting was attended by representatives from LNI, Tri-Cities region departments, and a Spokane region department.

The LNI FIIRE Program grants have been awarded to participating members for 2023. SRFR, SCF, and Mukilteo will all receive StormStick Decontamination systems for all front-line fire apparatus. The three agencies will work together to develop associated procedures and training for personnel.

The SCHSO has approved a scene Transition Safety Survey to be submitted to the SCFCA website for county wide access. The document will help agencies with WAC compliance when needed.

Preliminary work is underway to populate quarterly training in Vector Solutions for 2024.

SCF and Mukilteo have transitioned to Go-bags and scene changing tents for personnel.

The SCTOA and the SCHSO have both voted unanimously to recommend the SCFCA IMS Policy Committee be reconstituted to update the policy and add decontamination as a benchmark. A letter has been drafted to the TAC group requesting they consider voting on the matter prior to submitting it to the fire chiefs for consideration.

Chief Andrews suggested that any procedures they might like to have approved be forwarded to him for facilitation.

Paul Gagnon requested that agencies support Braven Metals in Lake Stevens. They've been a great partner to several agencies, supporting them by providing vehicles to utilize in training.

## **11. Special Ops** Dave Ruddell

SOPB's one year goal was to realign the budget. With the help of the SCF Finance Department they have done that. They've put 250k into a reserve account. Some other funds were used to purchase some equipment and replace expired supplies.

The dues will be frozen at the 2023 levels. Information will be sent to agencies soon.

The bylaws have been updated and posted. BC Ruddell thanked agencies for encouraging people to remain on committees. He thanked Chiefs Chalfant and Gagnon for acquiring hundreds of thousands of dollars in UASI grants.

Chief Andrews asked which formula has been used for calculating assessments as one goal has been to ensure consistency throughout the Association. BC Ruddell shared that he would investigate which formula has been used and report back.

### **12. Policy / Procedure Review Committee** Eric Andrews

DC Chalfant shared that a procedure on mid and high-rise firefighting has been established. It'll be presented to SCFCA in November.

### **13. Washington State Fire Chiefs** Kevin O'Brien (absent)

## **G. Announcements/Good of the Order**

Sadly, Chief Jack Cooper from Edmonds and Chief Wes Miller both passed away recently. They were legacy people in our fire service and will be greatly missed.

Chief Vander Pol shared that Marysville Fire has moved their administrative division back to Station 61 and all are invited to swing by and say "hello."

Chief Eastman shared that regarding the state plan amendment GEMT. CMS requested that the clock be stopped to allow for more thorough investigation. There will likely not be a reduction in the cost report agencies will submit this year (November 2023). It's probable that there will be a reduction for the following cycle. Chief Eastman will update the group as information becomes available.

**H. Adjournment Motion** to adjourn proposed by Chief Cermak; **seconded** by Chief Vander Pol and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1223 hours.



**Minutes prepared and submitted by:**  
**Susan Bjorling**- South County Fire

**Next Meeting:**  
**November 6, 2023**  
**1130 hours**  
**Shawn O'Donnell's**

**Attachments:**  
**None**