



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association**  
**General Membership**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**April 3, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

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

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

Phil Childs  
Kurtis Brown  
Mike Calvert  
Dave DeMarco  
Paul Gagnon  
Glen Albright  
Troy Elmore  
Blake Engnes  
John Cermak  
Chris Dickison  
Joshua Cole  
Ernie Walters  
Lori Burke  
Bill Dane  
Todd Anderson  
John Chalfant  
Bob Eastman  
Karl Fitterer  
Shaughn Maxwell  
David Wells  
Terry Peterson  
Ryan Keay  
Leonard Boche'

Boeing Fire  
Everett Fire  
Everett Fire  
Everett Fire  
Everett Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
North County Fire  
North County Fire  
Paine Field Fire Department  
Sky Valley Fire  
Snohomish County Fire Marshal  
Snohomish County FPD 17  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
Sno911  
Snohomish County Medical Program Director  
Northwest Business Services

- A. Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1133 hours.
- B. Adopt / Adjust Agenda** No changes or additions to the agenda.
- C. Minutes**
- **Discussion:** No discussion.
  - **Action: Motion** by Chief Eastman to approve the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. **Seconded** by Chief Cermak **Approved** unanimously.  
(Copy available at end of document.)
- D. Treasurer's Report**

- **Discussion:** There was no activity for the month of March 2023.

## **E. Old Business**

### **New Snohomish County MPD (Medical Program Director)**

Dr. Ryan Keay was introduced by Chief Kraski. She shared that she would like to hear everyone's ideas and gather input to help her become more familiar with the needs of the group.

Dr. Keay has worked with Dr. Cooper (previous Snohomish County MPD) in the ER. Her perspective is that the low-hanging fruit is handling recertifications. She will be processing/signing those on a twice-per-month schedule. She predicts fewer delays in the future. The ESO/Epic interface is an issue that will be addressed. She has an eye on handling quick fixes, infrastructure issues and long-term planning. She has met with the current office staff. The plan is to submit protocols to the State every June so that they can be approved by January of each year. Reliability and predictability are her goals. She would like to see everyone in the County focusing on patient care and working on simplification.

Dr. Keay stressed that communication is important to her. A newsletter from SCEMS has been prepared and will be sent soon. It will be sent on a regular basis, with an exact schedule yet to be determined.

Dr. Keay would also like to reinstate County Run Reviews to further increase efficiencies and positive outcomes. She would also like to be invited to the conversations regarding the reorganization of SCEMS. She's been through several reorganization processes at various levels and feels she has some important input to share. She has completed several ride alongs with area agencies and is looking forward to working her way around the County, spending time with each organization.

Chief Kraski extended an open invitation to Dr. Keay to attend the SCFCA General Meetings each month.

She shared her email address with the group. [Ryan.keay@snocountyems.org](mailto:Ryan.keay@snocountyems.org)

### **Wall Wait Times**

Chief Bob Eastman shared that Providence is in the process of setting up a meeting to further discuss wall wait times. There has been a slight delay due to the onboarding of a new employee at Providence who will be managing the area facilities.

The solution proposed by EMS has been to be patient focused and they'll take the patient to the facility that can serve the patient best at that time. It's been felt by crews that the facilities have had some conflict. The hope, moving forward, will be to come up with a plan that all parties will agree to help manage.

The weekend prior to the general membership meeting was busy for crews and wall wait times were extended. The calls and times are being closely monitored.

Chief Cermak shared that it feels as though it's taken quite some time to get the right people to come to the table. Chief Eastman stated that Providence is aware that this is a serious issue, and he will continue to engage with them to work toward a solution.

Dr. Keay did share that it's a labor contract year. Providence has agreed to expedited labor negotiations. They've expressed that they hope to wrap up contract talks within 2 weeks. Travel nursing contracts have been a sticking point. They are typically 3-month contracts. It was not known on the date of the general membership meeting when the next cycle of travelers would be negotiating.

Chief DeMarco shared with the group that SCEMS has been considered the "neutral third-party" in discussions regarding the diversion policy in Snohomish County. The agencies and facilities will need to come together to evaluate the policy to best serve patients. An appropriately established diversion policy will relieve the pressure on some of the hospitals, resulting in taking some of the stress from crews, ultimately allowing everyone to better serve patients.

Chief Hovis inquired as to whether binding arbitration has been included in the nurses' current CBA to help avoid a nurses' strike. Dr. Keay shared that there is no such clause that would prevent a strike.

### **Consortium RFP Responses**

Terry Peterson from Sno911 shared that they have narrowed RFP responses down to three from five initial applicants. Those three vendors will be interviewed by the SCFCA Executive Board and they will further narrow the field down to one. Contract negotiations will then begin. The vendor will be contracted and will communicate/interview various stakeholders throughout the County.

This will continue to be discussed at upcoming SCFCA Board and general membership meetings.

## **F. New Business**

## **G. Reports**

### **1. Sno911 Terry Peterson -**

Next week is National Telecommunicators Week. County first responder personnel are invited to stop in to recognize Sno911 staff for their hard work. April TAC has been canceled in favor of the Nurse Navigator demonstration to be held in Sno911's new facility on Everett Mall Way.

### **2. Fire Commissioners Don Waller - absent.**

Chief Hovis shared that the next County fire commissioners meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Fire Marshal- Lori Burke -**

Investigators had been very busy with approximately 2-3 calls per day on average in the two weeks preceding the SCFCA general membership meeting. Derek Wilson reached

out to Lori Burke regarding board-up issues. SCF, Everett, and Mukilteo are the only agencies who have set policies regarding board up security.

The County Fire Marshals office has hired a new entry-level employee. They are excited to have additional help.

Lori extended sincere thanks to South County Fire for providing Honor Guard personnel and an out-of-service apparatus for retired Fire Marshal Bruce Pulver's memorial service. Bruce's family also asked Lori to share their appreciation.

**4. Fire Resources Coordinator** Travis Hots - absent.

**5. DEM/Incident Management** Lucia Schmitt - absent.

**6. Fire TAC** Eric Andrews -

Fire TAC discussed board up issues. They've provided a list of companies that agencies can call for assistance. They also had a special meeting regarding adding a 60-second delay with the hope that it might prevent some dispatching errors when other calls arrive within seconds. Chief Andrews shared that it may be helpful to take that into account when measuring response times. A typical 9-minute trip would actually be an 8-minute trip.

There are 25 Crew Force licenses in the County. Chief Andrews requested that if a particular agency is not currently utilizing theirs, they free them up for use by others.

**7. Legislative** Shaughn Maxwell -

The State Chiefs Association has been following eighty-four bills this session, a variety of which relate to the following:

JATC, Hospital Staffing Standards, Telemedicine, Behavioral Health, Aviation Assurance Funding for Wildland Fire Support, and establishing a new Fire Service Policy Board. Chief Maxwell invited people to reach out to him if they would like to discuss these issues or other bills further.

**8. Fire Prevention** Shawneri Guzman - absent submitted below by email

Free educational offering:

Energy Storage Systems

Tuesday, April 11th from 0900-1000

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84445545220?pwd=YkdxNW9EVkhtaINrZFk5VUtTU2JnZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4554 5220

Passcode: 781530 One tap mobile: +1-253-215-8782

**9. EMS** Roger Vares - absent.

**10. Training Consortium** Chief DeMarco -

A temporary executive officer has been in place at the Training Academy recently. MVFD BC Chad Hale has been gracious enough to accept the assignment while SRFR completes an investigation.

Chief Hovis expressed appreciation to Chiefs Andrews and Walters for allowing live burns on their grounds.

#### **11. Training Officers/Safety** Troy Elmore -

The Snohomish County Training Officers 2023 quarters 2-4 has been loaded into Enterprise and assigned to participating agencies in Vector Solutions. The SCTO will be preparing training for 2024 quarters 1-4 so we are ready to launch by the beginning of the year.

Registration is open for the SCTO Spring Leadership training being held on May 25th in Mukilteo.

The Snohomish County Training Officers and Snohomish County Health and Safety Officers now have a place for permanent document storage thanks to Jarrod Dibble with the Department of Emergency Management. They will be using the ESF4 SharePoint account.

The Snohomish County Health and Safety Officers met for the first time in 2023 and will continue working on musculoskeletal injury and carcinogen exposure risk reduction efforts that began with the state LNI FIIRE program in 2021.

The Snohomish County Health and Safety Officers have identified five additional topics that they will be working on in 2023. They have approached King and Pierce County agencies about joining efforts in the future.

#### **12. Special Ops** Dave Ruddell-

HazMat and Rescue teams are fully into the 2023 training schedule.

2023 Updated by-laws were approved by the SOPB board. The final draft is being formatted and will be presented to the County Chiefs.

Specials Operations Budget planning begins next week, with an approved 2024 budget slated for the May 15 SOPB meeting. Followed by a presentation to the County Chiefs.

UASI grant awards are being completed from 2019/2020. 2021 and 2022 are being combined, equipment lists are going to bid. 2023 lists are being generated now.

A more detailed report on the UASI process will be provided during the budget presentation.

#### **13. Policy / Procedure Review Committee** Eric Andrews-

The Fire Resource Plan has been updated on the SCFCA website. Anyone hoping to access the information must go to "member login" to access the policies and procedures.

Updates to policies will be sent to webmaster Leonard Boche' who will upload them to the website.

First Due symbols will be added to the site, soon.

**14. Washington State Fire Chiefs** Kevin O'Brien - absent.

**H. Announcements/Good of the Order**

Chief Strotz introduced Darrington Fire Chief Joel Johnson. The group was happy to have Chief Johnson join the meeting.

Chief Vander Pol will be continuing his district's efforts and previous work with CPSE and inquired as to other agencies' Standard of Cover work with CPSE. He would appreciate any information that could be shared, as this will be his first time working through the process in our area.

- I. Adjournment Motion** to adjourn proposed by Chief Vander Pol; **seconded** by Chief Johnson and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at **1228 hours**.

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

**Next Meeting:**  
**Monday, May 1st, 2023**

**Attachments:**