



Snohomish County Fire Chiefs' Association

"Progressive Fire Protection Through Cooperation"

Established 1970

Board Meeting

September 27, 2023

1:00 PM

Officers

President

Chief Thad Hovis

Vice-President

Chief Dave Kraski

Treasurer

Chief Jim Haverfield

Immediate Past

President

Chief Travis Hots

Directors

Large Agencies

Chief Kevin O'Brien

Medium Agencies

Chief Eric Andrews

Small Agencies

Chief Keith Strotz

Liaisons

Legislative

Chief Shaughn Maxwell

Fire Commissioners

Chief Don Waller

Training/Safety Officers

Chief Michael McConnell

Special Operations

Chief Dave Ruddell

EMS Council

Chief Dennis

Fenstermaker

Fire Prevention

Shawneri Guzman

Washington Fire Chiefs

Chief Kevin O'Brien

Policy/Procedure

Committee Chair

Chief Eric Andrews

SNO911 Fire Tac

Chief Eric Andrews

Call Meeting to Order

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82763668736?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82763668736?pwd=Qi9OL3YzemwzQTVkaGhyK0haYTTFpZz09)

[pwd=Qi9OL3YzemwzQTVkaGhyK0haYTTFpZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82763668736?pwd=Qi9OL3YzemwzQTVkaGhyK0haYTTFpZz09)

Additions to Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from August 2023 Executive Board Meeting

Old Business:

- PFAS – ready for distribution

New Business:

- County Evacuation Plan by DEM (Chief Andrews)
- PTCC (Chief Kraski)
- Monday, October 2nd General Membership Meeting
- Expiring Terms – Elected Officers

Committee/Division Updates (as needed)

Announcements

Adjourn

Attachments:

Minutes SCFCA Executive Board Meeting – August 2023



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
Board Meeting
1:00 p.m.
August 23, 2023**

PRESENT:

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

A. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 1437 hours.

B. Adopt/Adjust Agenda

C. Minutes

Action: Chief Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2023 meeting. Chief Haverfield seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

D. Old Business

E. New Business

The PFAS County-Wide Communication has been reviewed by the E-Board and will be presented to the general membership for input at the September 20th general membership meeting.

Motion to approve was made by Chief Andrews. It was seconded by Chief Strotz and unanimously approved.

Northwest Ambulance including ALS for inter-facility transports-

Joe from Northwest Ambulance contacted VP Kraski regarding ALS providers being allowed to provide inter-facility transport in Snohomish County. Dr. Keay, County MPD, is in favor and will assist in facilitating this change in process. They will not respond to 911 calls. It is thought that this practice is already being carried out in Pierce County.

AC Eastman shared with the group that it has historically been nurses making these types of runs, rather than medics. He is of the impression that at some point there will likely be competition within the county for medics. Even with firm parameters in place this could result in a private entity coming in to compete with departments for this work. When medics on the private units are allowed to do this type of work it opens a door.

Chief Andrews recalls that the MPD has never allowed this in the past. He also offered the perspective that if private ambulance companies wanted to challenge their licensing restrictions through DOH in the future, already having medics on board could give them an advantage.

Chief Haverfield suggested that it might be wise to procure a written agreement with Northwest Ambulance in case they should sell their business.

Chief Kraski recommended that this be further discussed at the General Membership meeting on September 20th.

Potential Grant Funding opportunities through Snohomish County DEM

AC Eastman has been coordinating with Eric Smith at Snohomish County DEM to facilitate some additional funding opportunities. Eric will attend the next General Membership meeting in October to provide an overview.

Information regarding strategies for reprioritizing UASI spending, the process and how they arrive at numbers, and the results from an SPR survey will be discussed. Funding sources will be analyzed. Eric will take questions from Chiefs and provide a high-level presentation to encourage coordination.

F. Committee Updates

None

G. Announcements/Good of the Order

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1456 hours. The motion was made by Chief Kraski and was seconded by Chief Andrews.

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023
1:00 pm

Attachments:
PFAS County-Wide Communication as approved.



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EMS Council

DC Roger Vares

Fire Prevention

Shawneri Guzman

Washington Fire Chiefs

Chief Kevin O'Brien

Policy/Procedure Committee

Chief Eric Andrews

SNO911 Fire Tac

Chief Eric Andrews

Date: August 23, 2023

Subject: PFAS chemicals and their potential use in the fire service

To: Snohomish County Fire Chiefs' Association Fire Chiefs (SCFCA)

In the spirit of our mission statement, "Progressive Fire Protection Through Cooperation", this message is intended to provide SCFCA Fire Chiefs general information and suggested guidance for your consideration which was developed by the Snohomish County Force Protection Group regarding PFAS. This category of manufactured "forever" chemicals (Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) called PFAS, has been identified by some scientific studies to increase risk of developing certain cancers and diseases.

Originally created in the 1940s, PFAS has been further developed into 12,000 different compounds used in manufacturing of an array of everyday items like take-out food containers, non-stick pans, and outdoor clothing. Within the fire service, PFAS has now been recognized to potentially increase exposure risk to firefighters, as it has been identified as a manufacturing component within some Class B station uniforms (Nomex, etc.) as well as structural personal protective equipment (PPE).

For SCFCA Fire Chiefs who have a local union representing some or all your agency's firefighters, it is important to know that the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) earlier this year retained multiple tort law firms, "to assist their effort to end fire fighter cancer and remove PFAS from use in the fire service." Also, in late August, the IAFF's Redmond Health & Safety Symposium will be held. This symposium will likely provide additional information to share about PFAS with attendees. If members of your staff or IAFF local union's leadership, if applicable, are scheduled to attend, please consider requesting they bring back any PFAS related information and share with your organization.

Our association's Fire Chiefs have consistently demonstrated their support to minimize potential health and safety risks for their agency's firefighters whenever achievable, practical, and in accordance with mandatory federal, state, and local regulations. Unfortunately, no immediately identifiable solution to potential increased risk to firefighters due to PFAS has been identified, or has a regulation or recommendation been established by regulatory agencies mandating agency action.

As the topic of PFAS further develops, SCFCA Fire Chiefs may have already, or may be considering whether or not to make any changes to your agency's current practices in response to this recently emerging concern.

As I mentioned the Force Protection Group recently reviewed the PFAS topic and has developed the following suggested recommendations and options for each SCFCA Fire Chief to consider voluntarily implementing at your agency at your discretion:

- Discourage wearing structural PPE on EMS calls, as it increases potential PFAS exposure.
- Consider exploring potential alternatives for Class B uniforms in place of Nomex.

- Limit time spent in structural PPE for necessary training and emergency response, reducing overall exposure when achievable.
- Promote timely decontamination post incident from emergency scenes to remove potential carcinogens and emphasize proper washing of structural PPE to minimize potential contamination.

Thank you for valuable time reviewing this message and continuing your commitment to our association and your leadership protecting your firefighters and the communities you serve.

Best Regards,

Thad Hovis
President
Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association

Dave Kraski
Vice President
Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association

Jim Haverfield
Treasurer
Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association

Travis Hots
Immediate Past President
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Kevin O'Brien
Large Agency Representative
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