



Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
General Membership
11:30 a.m.
May 6, 2024

PRESENT:

Dave Kraski
Shaughn Maxwell
Jim Haverfield

Kevin O'Brien
Eric Andrews
Keith Strotz

Chad Schmidt
Joel Johnson
Dave DeMarco
Paul Gagnon
Ned Vander Pol
John Cermak
Scott Dorsey
Eric Andrews
Ernie Walters
Ryan Keay
Greg Osborne
Don Waller
Chad Crandall
Bill Dane
Terry Peterson
Bob Eastman
Joe Hughes
Ryan Lundquist
Michael McConnell
Vincent Read
Colby Titland
Leah Schoof
Bruce Kroon

President North County Fire
Vice President South County Fire
Secretary/Treasurer Snohomish County FPD 17
Immediate Past President
Large Agency Director Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
Medium Agency Director Snohomish County FPD 19
Small Agency Director Snohomish County FPD 19

Arlington Fire
Darrington Fire
Everett Fire
Everett Fire
Marysville Fire
North County Fire
SCEMS
Sky Valley Fire
Sky Valley Fire
Snohomish County Medical Program Director
Snohomish County FPD 4
Snohomish County FPD 4
Snohomish County FPD 17
Snohomish County FPD 17
Sno911
South County Fire
South County Fire
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue
1-800-BoardUp

A. Call to Order Meeting called to order at **1137** hours.

B. Adopt / Adjust Agenda

Bruce Kroon shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the services provided by 1-800-Board-Up. Please see the attached document for details.

C. Minutes

- **Discussion:** No discussion.
- **Action: Motion** by Chief Eastman to approve the minutes of the April 2024 meeting. **Seconded** by Chief Strotz. **Approved** unanimously.

D. Treasurer's Report

Discussion: There was no activity for the month of April 2024, per Chief Haverfield.

E. Old Business

- SCFCA 501c3 Status - Discontinuance (President Kraski)
After discussing this issue with legal counsel, Rich Davis, the group is discussing whether it will be necessary to renew the 501c3 nonprofit status. Chief Andrews mentioned that it may be worthwhile to renew it if the Association hopes to seek funding for projects through grants. It was suggested that there may be workarounds, such as running any grants through a partner agency.

F. New Business

- Letter of Support - JATC (Chief Kraski)
DC McConnell reminded the group that the Fire Chief's Conference will begin May 20th in the Tri-Cities. The legislative agenda will be set there. Chief Kraski shared that David Myers (JATC program administrator) asked the group to discuss whether SCFCA might agree to compose and send a letter to the legislature in support of the program.

Chief Andrews expressed some apprehension because the program is focused solely on career, full-time firefighters. Providing more funding to JATC will not help agencies in recruiting and training part-time or volunteer staff. He advocates for the training itself, but he would like to see equivalent support for part-time or volunteer personnel.

Chief Waller advocates for taking what the group can get, later leveraging the receipt of those funds to try to acquire more resources that can be used to provide training/education for part-time/volunteer personnel.

Chief Andrews points to the fact that the legislature has been very reticent to provide presumptive coverage to part-time/volunteers and he has concerns that those people may again be left behind.

DC McConnell suggested composing two different letters and providing individual advocacy on both fronts - full-time and part-time/volunteer.

Chief Cermak sits on the State Committee for JATC. He shared that they are currently funded through the State Board of Insurance Services. They are attempting to stabilize the funding and avoid having to go back to the Insurance Services group, making this a line item within the State budget. He doesn't advocate taking any funding from any other group, but he does feel it would be worthwhile to seek out any additional funding available for JATC.

Chief O'Brien would like to promote/support both issues, similarly to Chief Waller. He would especially like to see support for the presumptive illness coverage for part-time/volunteer personnel.

Chief Cermak made a **motion** to provide a letter to the State JATC in support of increasing funding to the JATC program.

Seconded by Chief O'Brien

DC McConnell offered a friendly amendment that any communications regarding this issue also be sent to the WSFCA.

Discussion:

Chief Eastman sought clarification that this will be new money and other funds WILL NOT be reallocated to support JATC.

The letter will be provided to back up DC McConnell.

President Kraski asked Chief Cermak if he'd like to restate the motion:

Motion restated by Chief Cermak to request a letter from SCFCA to WSFCA and Washington JATC in support of additional funding of the JATC Program.

The **motion passed** with Chief **Andrews dissenting**.

G. Agency Updates:

DEM - Lucia Schmit (absent)

Sno911 - Terry Peterson

Terry Peterson shared a Nurse Navigation Program. Please see the attached document.

The Nurse Navigator line is being viewed as providing alternative methods of treating very low acuity patients calling 911. Soft launched on January 16th. Launched in Snohomish County February 2024.

Patients are referred to urgent care clinics. 59 no-cost ride shares have been provided, thus far.

The biggest challenge has been the ALS/BLS hand back ratio. It is beginning to trend in the right direction.

There is not currently a way for agencies to opt out. Dispatches and wheel turns are being evaluated.

Surveys have been conducted with those patients who have been navigated out.

471 surveys have been conducted. 35% have been returned. The overall score has been 4.9%. GMR asks respondents why they called 911. Almost half shared that they didn't know how to access care otherwise. Terry shared that this surprised him, and it seemed like a high percentage of folks.

Some of the comments are included in Terry's presentation (attached).

Fire Commissioners - Don Waller

Chief Cermak attended the most recent Fire Commissioners meeting. He mentioned that Sheriff Johnson stated that SCSCO will be putting an article forward to the County Council supporting the ban of fireworks sales in areas where firework discharge is banned.

Fire Resources Coordinator - Travis Hots

Recently, a strike team was sent to Skagit County - Lyman Fire

This seems to be one of the earlier deployments in recent memory.

DNR hosted a pre-fire-season open house. They have installed a new leadership team and Chief Hots felt it was one of the better presentations put forth by DNR. Weather outlooks, firefighter support, etc. were all discussed.

Snow pack this year is at the lowest level since 2015. This is concerning and it may be logical to expect a busy fire season.

Grant opportunities can be found on the State DNR website. Some people may not be aware that specialty equipment can be requested. DEM/DNR also has radios available. They'd like to give them to the surrounding fire districts. Please reach out to them.

Finance would like to help. They shared that they would like to be of some assistance in our area. Contact them to ask questions or seek financial assistance.

One DNR aircraft will be in our county, located at Big Lake. Should it need to be utilized elsewhere in the state, a request can be made to reevaluate.

Should agencies hope to have the Sheriff's office deploy their aircraft, they should be certain to articulate that firefighters' lives or structures are in danger. Ground assets are less expensive to utilize, but aircraft can be made available.

Chief Andrews shared the Wildfire Response Plan is being developed. He requested that agencies keep track and report what resources are available within the county. If something has been sent out of county, please notify DEM.

Encryption of fire radio channels has been discussed recently. It can be done, but the question is which/how many channels should be encrypted. The community will no longer be able to listen to scanners to get information. The administrators need to know from area agencies which/how many channels to encrypt soon. It will not launch until Q1 of 2025.

There has been discussion about someone (fire personnel) within the county rebroadcasting call information over the internet. Agency administrators should remind personnel not to engage in that type of behavior.

Some area school districts have requested access to radios that would enable them to listen in during emergency situations that may impact their buildings. Someone suggested that there

could potentially be interoperable radios, but it could cause confusion with interruptions should people have access to encrypted channels. Interoperable channels and appropriate training could cut down on interruptions.

It was noted that the Navy should not be limited to interoperability, however.

Terry Peterson shared that while Sno911 programs the radios they also set up a "sponsoring" agency, verifying that groups who are asking for access are being vetted. They receive many requests from various agencies/departments, but they are selective and thoughtful when establishing them as users.

State Fire Defense has an issue with having an insufficient number of incident management teams. If there is a need somewhere else in the country, teams can be taken from our area. Just as agencies are having difficulty staffing, incident management teams are also struggling to find staff.

President Kraski made a motion to send the encryption issue to TAC to decide which channels should be encrypted. Chief Eastman questioned the reasoning for encryption. Chief Andrews shared that in the event a firefighter is injured, their identity could be protected. HIPAA concerns could also be alleviated since patient information could accidentally be released on the air. These issues could be alleviated by improved/reiterated training.

This issue will be sent back to TAC for further evaluation/discussion.

Fire Marshal - Lori Burke (absent)

H. Liaison Updates:

Fire TAC - Eric Andrews

TAC has some concern about agencies not taking the time to pinpoint where AEDs are located within the community. A small number have been identified, but in comparison to King County, Snohomish County is lacking in providing this important information. . If people use Pulse Point, they won't be able to locate the AED nearest to them. He requested that agencies provide the most accurate locations of their equipment.

EMS - VP Shaughn Maxwell

The work of the taskforce is continuing. They are doing good work. Chief DeMarco, Chair, anticipates that the group will provide a substantive update at next month's general membership meeting. The final work product will not be available, but updates will be provided. The 20k fee for consultant services that was approved by the group previously has been almost fully depleted. Chief DeMarco shared that they would like to request an additional 15k be allocated to see the project through to the end. Chief Kraski asked if this could be put on the next agenda. Chief DeMarco and Terry Peterson shared that the funds will be depleted prior to that meeting.

Chief DeMarco shared that the 20k previously spent came through SCEMS. He sought clarification about whether the request should be directed to the SCEMS Board, or it should be routed through SCFCA. DC Hughes shared that he would investigate this with the SCEMS Board at their upcoming meeting.

Chief Eastman mentioned that he is not in support of allocating any additional funding to cover the costs of a consultant. He feels the group assembled is empowered enough to see this

project through. Chief Andrews would like the taskforce to delineate whether they all feel they would like the consultant to continue. It will be discussed with the group at their next meeting.

Chief DeMarco stated that the consultant has done a nice job helping to facilitate.

SnoCo MPD - Ryan Keay

MPD Keay shared an overview of the current work of SCEMS. Please see the attached "2024 Roadmap."

SCEMS Director - Scott Dorsey

Policy/Procedure Review Committee - Eric Andrews

IMS Policy Review Committee. There is an update to the IMS policy, and it has been sent to Fire TAC for approval. They are recommending that fire TAC approves the updates. Chief Andrews would like to bring the SCFCA accountability policy up for review next. It's outdated.

Fire Prevention - Shawneri Guzman

The Washington Fire Marshals Office will publish their report at the end of May/early June. EMS week is coming up May 19-25, celebrating 50 years of EMS. A social media toolkit has been sent out.

Training Consortium - Shaughn Rice

Academy graduation will be held on May 16th in Arlington.

Training Officers/Safety Officers - Colby Titland

Things have been going well. Granite Falls will be hosting a Train-the-Trainer event. Please contact Chad Crandall for details.

BC Perry Putnam is now handling the EVCC Fire Science program.

Some folks are looking for a replacement for the physical ability test in this county. Testing has been happening in north county. They'd like to see all agencies adopt whatever they come up with, versus agency-by-agency adoption.

Special Operations - Dave Ruddell

Chief Eastman reiterated that South County will still be engaged in SOPB, contrary to some discussions that have been circulating. They are changing some things, adding technicians, but they are still planning to be engaged.

Washington Fire Chiefs - Michael McConnell

The Chiefs' Conference will be held May 20-23rd in Kennewick. The legislative agenda will be set.

The Fire Mechanics Conference will be held in September.

The Fire Administrative Support Conference will be held in Everett in October.

DC McConnell is hoping to hear back from agencies impacted by the Boeing lockout. He's primarily interested in hearing about additional response requirements or impacts. Chief Eastman mentioned that there has been very little impact, thus far, on South County Fire.

Chief Andrews reiterated that this group should still be supportive of acquiring presumptive illness coverage for part-time/volunteer personnel. He asked DC McConnell to ensure that that is made a priority. DC McConnell confirmed.

Legislative - Michael McConnell
See above.

I. Announcements/Good of the Order

Schmidt - FD 21 Passed their fire levy. Working toward ALS programming.

Eastman - Promoted Todd Anderson to Assistant Chief on May 1, 2024. There is a DC vacancy. Karl Fitterer will retire at the end of May. This will create an additional vacancy.

O'Brien- SRFR lost badly to the Monroe PD in their annual softball game. Chief Andrews reminded Chief O'Brien that that seems to happen every year.

Waller - all the buildings are down on the Pine Street property in Snohomish, and it has been cleared.

J. Adjournment Motion to adjourn proposed by Chief Eastman. **Seconded** by Chief Strotz and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at **1253 hours**.

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

Next Meeting:

Attachments:

- Sno911 May 2024 Nurse Navigation Program Update
- SCEMS 2024 Road Map