



Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
General Membership
11:30 a.m.
March 4, 2024

PRESENT:

Dave Kraski
Shaughn Maxwell
Jim Haverfield
Thad Hovis
Kevin O'Brien
Eric Andrews
Keith Strotz

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

Joel Johnson
Mike Calvert
Dave DeMarco
Ned Vander Pol
Jennett Nielson
Glen Albright
John Cermak
Scott Dorsey
Lori Burke
Greg Osborne
Thad Frater
Don Waller
Chad Crandall
Terry Peterson
Todd Anderson
Bob Eastman
Shawneri Guzman
John Chalfant
Mike Hudson
Joe Hughes
James Curtis
Dave Wells
Michael McConnell

Darrington Fire
Everett Fire
Everett Fire
Marysville Fire
Marysville Fire
Mukilteo Fire
North County Fire
SCEMS
Snohomish County Fire Marshal
Snohomish County FPD 4
Snohomish County FPD 4
Snohomish County FPD 4
Snohomish County FPD 17
Sno911
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
South County Fire
Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue

- A. Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1147 hours.
- B. Adopt / Adjust Agenda** No changes or additions to the agenda.
- C. Minutes**
- **Discussion:** No discussion.
 - **Action: Motion** by Chief Strotz to approve the minutes of the February 2024 meeting. **Seconded** by Chief Anderson **Approved** unanimously.
- D. Treasurer's Report**

Discussion: There was no activity for the month of February. Please see the attached detailed report provided by Chief Haverfield.

E. Old Business

- Update on SNO911 Governance Board Task Force

Chief Maxwell shared that the project is moving along quite well. The Committee is very thoughtful and engaged. The group is building the structure and looking ahead from where we are now. The matrix has been established. WACs and RCWs are being reviewed to help determine who is responsible for which roles/responsibilities. Looking at what's required/not required by law is being evaluated slowly and deliberately. The Committee is working very well together.

Terry Peterson shared that the group plans to provide updates to the SCFCA chiefs monthly and they're open to hearing feedback. The hope is to provide a governance structure recommendation in June.

The PowerPoint and matrix will be emailed to all members. Chief Maxwell also asked that stakeholders provide input to help guide the mission.

Scott Dorsey is available for discussions and will be happy to meet with people.

- SCEMS Elections (Chief Maxwell/DC Hughes)

There will be some changes within the Executive Board with the retirement of Chief Vares. Elections will be held to fill his role and one other that is vacant.

- Behavioral Health Subcommittee (DC Mike Hudson/Chief Vander Pol)

Chief Vander Pol shared that he would like to see the SCFCA supporting a collaborative peer support group throughout the county, especially when a large incident impacts our area first responders.

Chief Hudson shared that the State Council has started a group to develop best practices and encourage people to seek support. They're attempting to combine resources across the state. Their goal is to streamline processes. Chief Hudson encouraged people to reach out to their State Council representatives.

- OSO Memorial Dedication Reminder - March 22nd (Chief Joel Johnson)

Chief Johnson again invited all to attend the Oso Memorial Dedication on March 22nd. There will be designated parking areas and shuttles will be provided. Limited parking for first responders will be provided at Station 37. Otherwise, the old mill parking lot will be an option.

Plan to arrive and be parked by 9 am. The ceremony should conclude by 10-11 am. First Responders are invited to share a meal at Station 37 afterward, graciously provided by the Soup Ladies.

- PFAS Update

This has been an international issue. Many manufacturers are moving toward manufacturing new gear. Wear tests will be conducted soon. There are still studies being conducted to ensure that the new products will be an improvement.

SCF sent out the Nomex/Workrite gear to a lab at Duke. They hoped to test for heavy metals, lead, chlorine, and a few other things which were cited in reports. They tested negative for a bromine retardant. Further results are pending. The items will also be sent to NC State to be further tested.

Merino wool work wear items are being trialed in our area. Some items are on their way to Snohomish County and, after feedback has been gathered, it'll be shared with the group.

The best practice is still to limit exposure. Bunker gear on EMS calls would not be considered best practice.

Central Pierce has established the practice of instructing personnel to wear their PT gear within the station, wearing their other items only when responding. Establishing green zones, yellow zones, and red zones might be helpful.

F. New Business

- WFCAs Annual FORCE Conference Nominations (DC Mike McConnell)

Western Fire Chiefs have restructured how they're offering attendance to the FORCE Conference. WFC has the opportunity to present 4-6 names. The conference is held annually to bring emergent fire department leaders together to look ahead 5-10 years down the road. Chief Lundquist found it to be an inspiring conference.

Letters of interest should be sent to DC Mike McConnell at SFRF prior to March 27th.

G. Agency Updates:

DEM - Lucia Schmit (Absent)

Sno911 - Terry Peterson

Construction on the new facility has started. Internal demo of building B has begun. Nurse navigator launched approximately 6 weeks ago. They have successfully navigated 150 calls out of the system, which has helped to reduce loads on urgent care clinics and emergency rooms.

There will be a conference held on March 19, 20 (two half days) with GMR. Data will be fully evaluated. Chief Hughes encouraged uniformed personnel to attend to learn about the system and share their agency's specific needs.

The radio system go live had been planned for late Q1 of 2025, but Motorola is hoping to move the date up and the cut over may occur at the end of 2024. Education and user impact information will be provided.

Fire Commissioners - Don Waller

Fire Resources Coordinator - Travis Hots (absent)

Fire Marshal - Lori Burke

Lori Burke provided the call-out schedule for the County Fire Marshal's office.

Skagit County and Whatcom County officials have been discussing burn bans in their area. They're considering placing bans on residential burning for two or three months. Lori requested feedback from the Chiefs as to whether they'd like to consider doing something similar.

The Fire Marshals Office plans to begin holding the conference calls again this year with the hope that they'll be able to keep everyone informed in a timely manner.

Some counties have based burn bans on the heat index, but the County FM's Office would prefer to base their decisions on science.

Lori has statistics regarding burn bans for the past 10 years. Please reach out to her to discuss further.

H. Liaison Updates:

Fire TAC - Eric Andrews (absent)

EMS - Shaughn Maxwell

SCEMS EMS Trauma Care Council has engaged a retired Deputy Chief from Seattle Fire as a Citizen-at-large representative.

SnoCo MPD - Ryan Keay (absent)

Scott Dorsey shared a PowerPoint presentation (attached). SCEMS has been working on designing systems that will be timeless and will provide effective and efficient services to their 1,800 providers.

Protocols have been approved and posted.

OTEP has been rolled out. Significant changes will be coming. Should be finalized by the end of September.

CAM is up and running. The material has been entered into the system. Two CAM meetings will be provided, one in May and one in September.

Level loading has been paused. The hope is to improve the dashboards. Wall times have improved organically due to the end of the flu season.

Work on KPIs continues.

Dr. Keay would like to ensure that every department has a QA plan in place that aligns with the County plan.

The next County Run Review will be March 17th.

Electronic Health Records need to be standardized. Tracking data has been difficult.

North County Fire has launched a pilot for a controlled substance plan. The hope is to roll it out county wide.

SCEMS Director - Scott Dorsey

Protocols have been revised in Power DMS, a document management system. This should enable people to find the protocols more readily. It's a work in progress and Val Manuel (Everett Fire) has been instrumental in managing the project.

SCEMS missed their deadline to send out tax statements, but they are aware and will update as necessary.

Scott is working on evaluating and managing the budget and the group's non-profit status.

OD Map is another project that's been undertaken within the county. First Watch has been engaged to discuss with stakeholders what data can be provided.

The SCEMS website will be streamlined and made easier to navigate. It's a work in progress.

Scott is always available to visit stations and engage in discussions regarding SCEMS.

Policy/Procedure Review Committee - Eric Andrews (Absent)

Fire Prevention - Shawneri Guzman

SCFPA will host Greg Baruso, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, Washington State Patrol / Fire Protection Bureau, Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section on Tuesday, March 12 from 0900-1000. Contact Shawneri for a Zoom link. Greg will be discussing 2023 WA state fire statistics and the state's CRR plan.

Training Consortium - Shaughn Rice (Absent)

Training Officers/Safety Officers - Colby Titland

Training information is up on the website. Spring leadership is set for Thursday. The Fall tactical is being planned. More information to follow.

Sub-committee of Fire TAC is working on IMS policy. It should be presented around Memorial Day with an update to SCFCA after that date. The group is open to feedback.

Special Operations - Dave Ruddell (Absent)

Washington Fire Chiefs - Michael McConnell

TIFF Amendment passed the senate. It broadened some of the parameters. It now includes an arbitration process. There were a few revisions, but nothing that completely changed it. Monies have been allocated for a fallen firefighter memorial on Capitol grounds. Additional funding should be forthcoming as the project progresses.

The Fire Chiefs Conference will be held in May this year.

Legislative - Shaun Maxwell

See above report by Michael McConnell.

I. Announcements/Good of the Order

Chief Haverfield shared that bid opening will be soon for their new fire station. He also introduced their new DC Crandall.

Chief Vander Pol shared that they've chosen OAC to work on Station 63. Marysville will have a PAU beginning in June/July. Should be a 40-hour unit 4 days per week. They are discussing with stakeholders and collecting input.

Chief DeMarco will be writing a short case study about the case in Aurora, CO where two paramedics were convicted and sentenced to prison. It will include a legal opinion and an MPD opinion.

Chief O'Brien shared that Lt. Jeff Thompson retired last week. BC Fisher will retire by March 10th. SRRFR will post a DC opening within the next month or two.

Chief Cermak - NCRFA is planning on building a storage facility with DNR. Discussions are underway.

Special OPS props have been started at the training facility. Hoping for completion in June/July.

Doug Tenhoopen has been working on an MOU for a regional multi-agency SAFER grant regarding a carbon dioxide bunker gear cleaning system.

- J. Adjournment Motion** to adjourn proposed by Chief Eastman, **seconded** by Chief Johnson, and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at **1253 hours**.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Susan Bjorling / Executive Assistant - South County Fire

Next Meeting:

April 1, 2024

SCFD 4 - 1525 Avenue D, Snohomish

Attachments:

SCEMS Update