



March 11, 2019

Fire Chief's Report

Last weekend I did attend a state (IFSAC) evaluator training course in Skagit County to upgrade my current standing, now to a Senior Evaluator. The **International Fire Service Accreditation Congress** is the WA state recognized competency and certification testing program in accordance with nationally accepted standards. And on March 19th I'll be assisting South Sno County Regional Fire Authority HQ for their Fire Inspector candidate interviews. They will typically reciprocate in kind when we request evaluators here.

We've conducted some additional Part Time Firefighter interviews last week in an effort to enhance our firefighter staffing resource pool. A number of our current Part Time Firefighters have recently taken full time positions elsewhere with other agencies. In recent months the need to employ new replacements has notably increased. Captain Schmidt has been assisting us with recruiting these new Part Time candidates.

Admin staff again met with representatives of the Mabana Flames Group last week to assist them with their internal planning efforts to conduct a community open house event at Station 1-5 on Saturday June 29th. The Flames have requested that a spokesperson / fire commissioner from the fire district attend on this date to assist in providing current agency information for the visiting public. They will meet with us again in late April.

Our Community Paramedic James Reinhardt has taken a new job position last week and has already started work at Tulalip Bay Fire District # 15 serving in a full time Deputy Chief role there. Tulalip Fire District # 15 Fire Chief Shaughnessy had requested that Jim be allowed to borrow his CIFR assigned P.P.E. (Fire Protective Clothing Gear) until they could purchase some new gear for him - and a 30 day window was agreed upon. A similar request then sought to borrow one of our Lifepak 12 Cardiac Monitors, but I had declined that specific request.

I did meet again with our Labor Group last week where we discussed the recent departure of Community Paramedic Reinhardt. Per the current C.B.A. the union has been asked to provide the fire district with their suggestions about how to fill our Community Paramedic position vacancy - in a written format. The topic of the Duty Officer role was again discussed but there will need to be some further discussions involving (new) wage compensation expectations and possible program design refinements regarding volunteer staffing. I have again suggested that any such program enhancements first be reviewed by the new fire chief - as we will likely plan to commence the C.B.A. renewal negotiations ahead of, and prior to, the end of 2019.

Efforts also continue on our new FY2018 SAFER Grant application. We will seek near \$500,000 in federal funding for a three year period to add two additional career firefighter positions. If awarded the cost share for CIFR would be 25% during the first two years and 65% in the third year. FEMA does allow for job sharing, but that remains a negotiable item within our local labor group. Although FEMA recognizes our contemporary EMS duties, the **grant scoring criteria focuses heavily on local fire protection efforts** and those related nationally recognized firefighter certifications. A good number of internal grant application element alterations are apparent in this year's program, so weekend efforts seem to work best for me to concentrate on this tedious task in an uninterrupted manner. I'll plan to submit this grant request before the program close date of March 22.

CH

Interim Fire Chief