



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

To: WSCFF, IAFF 7th District

From: Ricky Walsh, IAFF 7th District Vice President
Dennis J. Lawson, President

Date: March 1, 2020

Subj: COVID-19

In the late hours of Friday February 28, IAFF District Vice President Ricky Walsh was made aware of the first death linked to the Corona virus (COVID-19) in the United States, specifically in King County Washington.

DVP Walsh immediately contacted WSCFF President Dennis Lawson and a plan was put in motion to gather IAFF and WSCFF leadership together via conference call to discuss this recent development.

Early Saturday morning, DVP Walsh and President Lawson were made aware that members from Kirkland Fire (Local 2545), Redmond Fire (Local 2829) and Woodinville Fire (Local 2099) had been exposed to the COVID- 19 virus and were being quarantined at an appropriate location of their preference to begin the evaluation period.

The early morning conference call included IAFF General President Schaitberger and IAFF Senior Staff, as well as WSCFF leadership that included S/T Markley, VP Shelton, IAFF 7th District EMS Representative - Hoover, Committee Chairs from EMS - Westland, Health and Safety - Rojecki, Public Relations – Mack, and WSCFF 7th District Representative - Soucy. DVP Walsh lead the briefing and information was shared and four other conference calls were scheduled for the day.

As the day progressed, IAFF / WSCFF leadership engaged in multiple phone calls with leading experts on the virus and other infectious diseases to discuss the resources available, where to find those resources, and how best to make them available.

The recent creation of the IAFF's new Coronavirus online toolkit is yet another example of our union providing leadership in an effort to protect its members. The COVID-19 information on the IAFF website provides information related on what has transpired in Washington and will be evaluated and updated as necessary.

We urge all members to visit the site (www.iaff.org/coronavirus) and to look for information from the IAFF as this situation continues to unfold.

Late Saturday afternoon, WSCFF President Dennis Lawson briefed the Washington State Council of Fire fighters Executive Board on information we had gained throughout the day and to discuss a plan as we moved forward. Your leadership will continue to be involved in this process and will work to ensure our messaging is accurate, timely and in coordination with the IAFF.

Our appreciation to Presidents Vadney (L-2545), Anderson (L-2829), Klinkenberg (L-2099) for their work and willingness to share information in timely manner.

In closing I ask that you keep in mind our members and their families that have been directly affected by this virus and to others who have been impacted.

The IAFF and WSCFF will continue to update you as information become available. If you have specific questions or concerns please contact your local leaders, WSCFF district representatives, or the WSCFF office.