



Date: March 17, 2020

To: Members of the IAFF Magnificent 7th District

From: IAFF 7th District Vice President Ricky Walsh

Subj: COVID-19

The #IAFF, the office of the 7th District and your State Association is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its members while they continue to provide services that are time critical, labor intensive and highly technical during this once in a century event. We will do this by gathering the latest tested data, interpret it with many “field” eyes and put it in a format that is easy to understand.

With this information you may engage with Department management confident of your position and collaborate seeking the best outcomes for our members and the citizens we serve. Safety is always a mandatory subject of bargaining.

Attached are two documents we encourage you to use and approach your management seeking implementation. For clarity, we believe this to be the floor and certainly many of you have labor/management relationships allowing you to gain further protections. They have been emailed to you built using WORD and you can simply adopt and put your departments heading on it.

We understand that supplies are starting to run low and that is of concern not only to you, America’s first line of defense, but also our nurses, physicians, home health care workers and the like. It is predictable that we will need to become creative in our approach to protect ourselves using alternative methods to achieve the same result. It is advised to start thinking outside the box now. We will run ideas past our IAFF Health & Safety office as we think of them or as you send them to us for vetting. At this point there are no “bad ideas” and we may have to consider our highest level of respiratory protection, our SCBA. Again, this is where we excel as one of our traits is the ability to adapt to changing conditions. We have faith in you.

This is truly a time for leadership as we will witness the most vulnerable of humanity suffer physically, mentally and financially. Regardless if you hold positional leadership status, we count on each other and must reach down deep to allow that natural leadership trait in each of us to shine through. Our citizens are counting on such and our shift mates need assurance that we have each other to lean on. Together we will survive emotionally, physically and mentally due to who we are, what we do and the traits within all of us that brought us into this profession.

There will be more coming as your 7th District Leadership adapts to this unchartered territory. Stay safe and In Solidarity,

Ricky Walsh (7th DVP), Dennis Lawson (WA), Joel Fassbinder (MT), Tom Wescott (AK) and Tom Lovell (ID)