



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Juan Island Fire & Rescue Temporarily Implements 24/7 On-Duty Staffing

FRIDAY HARBOR, WA – San Juan Island Fire and Rescue (SJIF&R) continues to adjust emergency operations and preparations needed during the global COVID-19 pandemic. “During the current health crisis emergency SJIF&R continues adapting our emergency response capabilities to meet the needs of our residents and responders,” said SJIF&R Chief Norvin Collins.

Within less than 24-hours of Washington Governor Inslee’s “Stay at Home” order, SJIF&R implemented an on-duty, 24/7 emergency response capability with a rotating 3 or 4-person crew. The on-duty crew is housed in SJIF&R’s main fire station. The crew consists of 1 Officer, 1 Apparatus Operator, and 2 Firefighter and/or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Chief Collins said, “The responding on-duty crew is responding to the full-spectrum of emergency calls including advanced and basic life support calls (ALS and BLS), fire and other hazard incidents. Working with San Juan EMS, SJIF&R’s on-duty crew expands the number of EMTs available for immediate emergency dispatch and response.

SJIF&R’s on-duty 24/7 response plan reduces the number of our volunteer firefighters’ exposure to COVID-19 while providing efficient and safe response for our communities. In the event of a high-volume of emergency calls, structural fire calls, complex rescues and fireboat operations, SJIF&R’s trained volunteers continue to respond as needed.

“As expected, our volunteer and paid staff have risen to the challenge of providing emergency response during this health crisis. I am proud that we have more volunteer firefighters for 24/7 shifts than we have slots available. We are focused on the islands we serve, and we continue working with our neighboring islands to protect San Juan County as a whole,” said Chief Collins.

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The San Juan Island Fire & Rescue was established on October 6, 1958. The fire department covers about 55 square miles, includes all of San Juan Island, as well as Brown and Pearl Islands. For more information, please visit <http://www.sjifire.org/>