



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Local Teams to Deploy to Help at California Wildfires**

On behalf of the King County Fire Strike Teams

King County, Wash – Three strike teams of firefighters will leave this region early tomorrow morning for California to bolster the efforts to contain the wildfires in that state’s wine country.

Two *Type – 1* teams made up of the fire engines normally seen in fire stations, and one *Type – 3* team of wildfire apparatus will meet at the Maytown rest area, 13 miles south of Olympia on Interstate 5, at 5:00 am. They will leave the staging area at 6:00 am to begin the 750-mile trip to California.

There will be four fire apparatus per strike team for a total of 50 firefighters and support personnel. The teams plan on being deployed for 18 days, which includes three to four days of travel.

The three teams are comprised of crews from many Puget Sound region fire departments, including: Seattle, Vashon Island, Valley RFA, Bothell, Shoreline, Eastside, Snohomish County, as well as Seattle Public Utilities.

Other teams from the state may also be preparing to depart for California as well that are not part of these strike teams.

All the firefighters being deployed are “red card” certified, meaning that they have been trained in wildland firefighting, which is very different than traditional structural firefighting.

The media is invited to the staging area at the Maytown rest area. Interested news agencies should plan on being there no later than 5:30 am. Captain Kyle Ohashi will be your point of contact on scene. He can be reached at 206-450-8400.

Any media interested in shadowing the strike teams to California will need to coordinate that with Captain Ohashi at the rest area or afterwards.

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