



**PUGET SOUND  
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**  
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY  
**Matthew Morris Fire Chief**

*Professionally and  
compassionately helping people*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contract Between Departments Approved**

Kent, Wash – June 8, 2018 – A contract for services between the Puget Sound RFA and King County Fire District 43 has been approved by both governing bodies. Last week, FD 43 Fire Commissioners unanimously approved the 20-year contract, and this week the RFA Governance Board did the same.

This is the second contact for services that we have entered into recently. In 2014, a contract was signed between the RFA and the City of SeaTac to operate their fire department.

Currently, Puget Sound Fire protects the cities of SeaTac, Covington, Kent, and King County Fire District 37, with 10 fire stations and approximately 230 fulltime firefighters. This is an area of 60 square miles that generates almost 26,000 emergency calls annually.

The contract will add three more fire stations, 44 firefighters, and five civilian staff to the RFA. Both Fire Chief Aaron Tyerman and Deputy Chief Jeff Didonato of FD 43 will also take up new positions within the RFA. The contract will also almost double the size of the RFA's response area and add the cities of Maple Valley and Hobart. The annual emergency call volume in FD 43 is approximately 3,000.

FD 43 has a reserve (aka volunteer) firefighter program that protects much of the unincorporated portion of the district. This critical part of the department will continue to provide emergency services as they currently do, under the new contract.

Fire Chief Aaron Tyerman and Fire Chief Matt Morris of Puget Sound Fire said that they expect a smooth transition because of the ongoing cooperation between the organizations and that fact that Maple Valley and Puget Sound Fire work and train together on a regular basis. Both are members of the South King County Fire Training Consortium, so the firefighters are trained to the same high level, which allows them to work seamlessly at incidents. This also means that the public will not see any change in emergency services to the area.

A contract for services benefits both departments, as well as the public. We can take advantage of "economies of scale" which allows per-unit cost savings, due to being part of a larger purchasing group – similar to the idea why people shop at big-box stores and buy in large quantities. FD 43 expects to save over \$1 million the first year, which can be used to purchase much needed equipment.

Portions of the contract, including emergency response, will go into effect October 1, 2018. The completion date for fully integrating both departments is January 1, 2019.

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**MEDIA CONTACT: Captain Kyle Ohashi, PIO**  
24611 116th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington 98030  
**Desk 253.856.4481 - Cell 206.972.4082**

Serving the Communities of Covington, Kent, SeaTac & Fire District 37 • [pugetsoundfire.org](http://pugetsoundfire.org)



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