



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Association of Fire Fighters
Responding to the Interface (RTI)

Kent, Wash – 10/1/19

As all-hazards responders, firefighters are seeing wildland urban interface firefighting becoming part of the job for many local fire departments. The line separating urban, suburban and rural communities has blurred in recent years. Urban Interface fires are now threatening many parts of North America, including the Pacific Northwest. As of 2010, more than 99 million people live in the Urban Interface across the USA. And, as development in the Urban Interface continues to expand, the risk for disaster increases at a proportional rate.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has developed a course that provides structural fire fighters with comprehensive training and information regarding Urban Interface response which will allow them to operate safely in their community's urban interface environment. This course is called IAFF's Responding to the Interface (RTI).

The Responding to the Interface training includes 10 one-hour online modules and two days of classroom and hands on field instruction. The training program is designed to provide fire fighters and company officers a basic understanding of safety, command and control, and strategy and tactics to use when defending structures from a wildland fire (defensive strategy) or suppressing a wildland fire in and around structures (offensive strategy).

Fire Fighters participating in this course will then practice these skills using *their* communities fire engines in *their* local community area, thereby reinforcing the knowledge learned in the very areas that they will respond to urban interface fires in.

The RTI Course is conducted by subject matter experts from across the country and has taught in Colorado, Texas and Maine. Following the RTI Course, the Cadre will teach about 12 local fire fighters a second course that will allow them to teach the RTI to local Washington State Fire Fighters in the future. It is the expectation of the IAFF that Washington State will become a local provider of this training for its fire fighters for years to come. This training is being provided at no cost to local departments through a FEMA grant.

Local media are invited to a demonstration on Wednesday 10/2. A briefing area will be established at 30220 SE 58th ST, Preston WA 98050 with a brief scheduled for 1430 – 1500 hrs. Puget Sound Fire BC Brian Dodge will be the point of contact and can be reached at 360 870 6700.

MEDIA CONTACT: Captain Joe Root, PIO
24611 116th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington 98030
Desk 253.856.4481 - Cell 253.569.8809