



## Eastside Fire & Rescue Board of Directors 2021 Top Legislative Issues

### **PFAS**

1. Support the reduction of the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting activities and equipment.
2. Specifically support Department of Ecology budget requests to fund MTCA (Model Toxic Control Act) grants for PFAS clean-up.
3. Educate and inform the legislature that foam containing PFAS was utilized in good faith, with no knowledge of the negative consequences associated at the time of their use.
4. Support the PFAS Chemical Action Plan (PFAS CAP) being developed by the PFAS CAP Advisory Committee.

### **Wildland Policy**

Most of EF&R's service area is identified as high risk for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) events. As such, the EF&R Board of Directors supports advocating for the following priorities:

1. Fund DNR and local jurisdictions during peak fire season to preposition resources in instances of known, forthcoming mobilizations with the aim of engaging suppression efforts earlier.
2. Funding for local jurisdictions, who reside in the Wildland Urban Interface, to educate and assist homeowners with implementing prevention strategies such as the Firewise program.
3. Incentivize communities to develop and implement Urban forest management programs that are environmentally friendly yet provide for adequate protection to slow the spread of wildfire.
4. Ban shake shingle roof construction, in high risk WUI areas, and incentivize existing homeowners to convert to asphalt shingle roofing materials.

### **Incentivize Regionalization**

EF&R is a superior model for regionalization efforts. Increase opportunities to incentivize all fire service agencies to regionalize further:

1. Identify and Remove Barriers
2. Identify Statewide all-hazard response advantages
3. Funding advantages
4. Create incentives for fire service regionalization

### **Support Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank (IFCB) Capital Funding Request**

The Capital funding that the IFCB will be requesting through the State's budget process will assist the IFCB in securing a facility that better meets the growing needs of the community they serve. As an important community partner, establishing a Human Services Hub for All would not only benefit the 16,000+ food insecure people living in the service area, but also benefit the partnership with the CORE/Mobile Integrated Healthcare program.

### **State Route 18 Funding**

In the 2019-2021 transportation budget, the state invested \$8.9 million to begin the preliminary engineering work to widen State Route 18 (SR 18). Widening this seven-mile stretch of the road is required to alleviate both safety and capacity issues. Currently, a single lane conveys traffic in each direction without a central divider. The lack of a median and lighting contributes to an increased likelihood of dangerous head-on collisions. In addition to safety concerns, SR 18 is a major regional connector. Due to capacity issues of this stretch of road, portions of the traffic that could be traveling on SR 18 instead flows through Issaquah, contributing to frequent backups of nearly five miles. The Board joins the South East Area Legislative Transportation Coalition (SEAL-TC) in requesting the funding to finish widening SR 18.