



Orting Valley Fire and Rescue

Pierce County Fire District 18
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Resolution 2020-004

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 18 DECLARING EMERGENCY, AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY POWERS, AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE FIRE CHIEF IN RESPONSE TO THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19.

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death to vulnerable or at-risk populations, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high” and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Pierce County Executive issued a Proclamation of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No.18 as follows:

1. **Proclamation.** The Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 18 hereby and expressly finds and declares, based upon the Recitals above, which are expressly adopted herein, that COVID-19 is a civil public health emergency that:

A. Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken neighborhood overtaken by such occurrences; and

B. Could, if unattended, seriously affect the safety, health, or welfare of a substantial number of citizens of the Fire District, or preclude the provision of essential public services with such magnitude or severity as to necessitate seeking state, county, or other supplementation of local efforts or resources exerted or utilized in alleviating the danger, damage, suffering or hardship faced.

2. **Authority.** This Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency and Delegating Authority (“Resolution”) authorizes the Fire Chief to exercise such emergency powers as may be lawful under applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, or the District’s policies, and necessary, including by way of example and not limitation the following: general fire district powers under Title 52, RCW 39.04.280(3) for emergency procurement, and Chapter 39.28 RCW (Emergency Public Works). Effective upon signature hereto and as further detailed in Section 3 below, the Fire Chief is authorized to exercise such lawful authority through the use and direction of District personnel, services, equipment, and such additional acts as the Fire Chief may find necessary in his or her sole discretion to properly and safely manage this emergency.

3. **Powers.** In order to properly delegate and authorize the Fire Chief to prepare for, address, manage, prevent, respond to, and remediate this emergency situation, the Fire Chief shall have all necessary powers to do the following, which is provided for example and not limitation: make necessary rules and regulations reasonably related to the emergency; obtain supplies, equipment, personal property, professional, procured, or technical services, etc. (including selecting and awarding such contracts as necessary); such public works as defined by RCW 39.04.010; authorize overtime and/or extended leave for personnel; requisition personnel and material; obtain emergency funding and permitting through federal, state, and local agencies; and take such other lawful acts as may be necessary and reasonably related to the emergency situation declared hereunder.

3.1 If the Fire Chief exercises any powers or authorities delegated under this Resolution; the Fire Chief shall report such exercise to the Commission at the next regular Commissioner meeting with explanation as to why it was necessary to take such action under this Resolution to meet the emergency situation articulated herein. If required by law, the Commission shall take such action in an open session to ratify the Fire Chief’s action(s) hereunder.

4. **Termination.** This Resolution shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by law or by further Resolution and shall be reviewed as a regular agenda item on the Commission’s agenda until such time as this Resolution is terminated.

Adopted this 25th day of March 2020.

*****Signatures to be obtained when “Stay home, stay healthy” is over.

Margaret O’Harra Buttz, Chair

Tom Marino, Vice Chair

Arlene Dannat, Commissioner

Kevin Gorder, Commissioner

Jason Bellerive, Commissioner

Kimberly Kemp, District Secretary