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August 7, 2008

Chris Caviezel, Chairman
Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue
PO Box 99
Snoqualmie, Pass, WA 98068

RE: Kittitas County 911

Dear Chris,

Thanks for bringing your 9-1-1 dispatch concerns regarding the Snoqualmie Pass area to my attention. I have researched the issues and have discussed the concerns with several members of the KITTCOM board, the KITTCOM director, supervisors and communications engineer, EMS Coordinator and Hospital District #2 director.

I do not have the authority to change the routing of the 9-1-1 calls at Snoqualmie Pass, as this is under the authority of Kittitas County, which would need the approval of the county commissioners.

Upon our review of the 911 calls in the Snoqualmie Pass area, we would like to suggest that both KITTCOM and Eastside Dispatch adopt the "911 Call Transfer Standard" dated March 20, 2008 (included). In the best interest of all parties involved it has been suggested that both Eastside Dispatch and KITTCOM for medical incidents determine the nature of the call, location and phone number and then join the other dispatch center to complete the interrogation while the other center listens in. Presently, both Eastside Dispatch and KITTCOM are interrogating and dispatching the call to responders, followed by a phone call to the other center, neither agency is transferring the call to the other dispatch center. If both agencies adapted the "911 Call Transfer Standard", we believe all responders would be receiving the information in the most efficient manner currently available.

Currently, the "Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement for Kittitas County Public Hospital District #2, Kittitas County Fire District #8, and King County Fire District #51 between Mileposts 54.5 and 63.5 on Interstate 90" dated the 20th day of October 2003 specifies:

"WHEREAS, the South Central Region Patient Care Procedure's #11 – Routine Response Outside of Recognized Service Coverage Zone, purpose is to provide an avenue for reliable EMS agency relationships and coordination of optimal trauma/medical patient care as described in the Regional Trauma Plan, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of KCHD #2, KCFD #8, and SPFD to provide emergency medical service to the areas encompassed within the three districts in a manner as efficient and effective as mutual resources permit."

Further more, Kittitas County Emergency Medical Services operates under the South Central Regional EMS & Trauma Care Council Patient Care Procedures (SCR PCPs), Kittitas County Operating Procedures (COPs), and Kittitas County Operational Policies. I have attached and listed below some of the applicable procedures and policies referenced during our discussion. If you have any questions regarding these documents please contact the Kittitas County EMS Division.

- SCR PCP & COP #1 – Dispatch (Response Areas)
- SCR PCP & COP #3 – Triage & Transport
- SCR PCP #11 – Routine EMS Response Outside of Recognized Service Coverage Zone
- Kittitas County Operational Policy #3 – Ambulance and Aid Service Cancellation Criteria

An additional solution to assist Snoqualmie Pass Fire with receiving the incident information in a more timely manner, would be to have the Snoqualmie Pass Fire personnel monitor Kittitas County's Fire Main radio frequency for the pre-announcement being provided to the Kittitas County Fire and Medical agencies and to include the Hospital District 2 paging tones in the Snoqualmie Pass Fire radios. Snoqualmie Pass Fire already has the Kittitas County Fire Main radio frequency on their radios as per the Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement when SPFD responds to a call East of MP 60 they are to switch to Kittitas County Fire Main and use KITTCOM as the dispatch center for the call.

If everyone collaborates to improve the ultimate goal of "patient care" and sending responders in the most efficient manner currently available, the citizens of Kittitas County and those passing through Kittitas County will benefit.

I believe the recommendations I have listed will be the easiest and best solution for all involved. The KITTCOM Director, KITTCOM Engineer, our EMS Coordinator, the Chairman of the EMS Council and the Hospital District #2 Director, all agree that changing the Snoqualmie Pass 9-1-1 service at this time is not the best course of action.

Sincerely,



Gene Dana,
Sheriff

Cc: Mike Lopez
Mikey Eisenberg
Jackson Horsley
Craig McKee
Melody Westmoreland
Cheryl Burrows
Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners
Darlene Mainwaring
Chief John Sinclair