

North Idaho Fire Chief E Board

February 17, 2026

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Holley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Copstead
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C Pegoraro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C Etherton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Wojnowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J Miller

Opening Remarks

- Pete opened the meeting discussing consolidation of North Idaho fire chief's associations into a single entity for better resource mobilization and alignment with state agencies such as IDL and OEM.
- Eastern Fire Chiefs Association presented as a successful model.

Discussion: Association Name and Branding

- Considered options: **North Idaho Fire Chiefs** vs **First District Fire Chiefs**.
- Consensus leaned toward **District 1 Fire Chiefs**, acknowledging:
 - Reduces confusion with previous organizations (Kootenai Chiefs, North Idaho Chiefs)
 - Aligns with state organization naming
- Domain name already acquired for "District 1 Fire Chiefs".
- Motion to finalize name and update bylaws to reflect this at the next meeting.

Membership & Inclusion of Other Agencies

- Discussion on expanding beyond fire/EMS: dispatch, OEM, Sheriff's Office, and other regional agencies.
- Suggested approach:
 - Invite key agencies individually
 - Include subcommittees for specialized tasks (e.g., dispatch, OEM, technical rescue)
 - Encourage virtual participation to increase accessibility
- Consensus: maintain focus on the **five northern counties**.

Organizational Structure & Committees

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Proposed Standing Committees / Focus Areas:

1. **Communications:** Radio interoperability, dispatch coordination
 2. **Legislative Updates:** Track and inform members about state and regional legislative changes
 3. **Resource Management:**
 - Mutual aid/automatic aid agreements
 - Strike team mobilizations
 - Special operations / technical rescue
 4. **Training:**
 - Re-establish North Idaho Emergency Services Academy (NAESA)
 - Coordinate training with FST and other providers
 5. **Community/Prevention:**
 - Risk reduction, public safety, outreach programs
- Subcommittees encouraged under Resource Management and Training for specialized focus areas.

Incident Management Teams & OEM Collaboration

- Awareness of potential legislative changes allowing **IDL incident management teams** to become all-hazard capable.
- Discussion on leveraging fire department personnel to support regional incident management teams.
- OEM subcommittee proposed for after-action reviews and coordination across counties.

Financials & Dues

- Current funds: approximately \$12,000 across two accounts.
- Past dues: \$25 per organization per year.
- Major expenditure: support for training, NAESA, and FOTA events.
- Potential revenue streams discussed:

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- Selling District 1 Fire Chiefs branded apparel
- Golf tournament proceeds
- Flow-through membership via Idaho Fire Chiefs Association

Communication & Member Engagement

- Recommendation: issue a quarterly newsletter/update highlighting:
 - Organizational changes
 - Upcoming training opportunities
 - Legislative updates
 - Resources and subcommittee reports
- Maintain an updated roster of chiefs and key contacts across the five northern counties.

Bylaws & Governance

- Build bylaws reflecting:
 - Association names change to **District 1 Fire Chiefs**
 - One representative from each county on the e-board
 - Establish committees and subcommittees as discussed
 - Roles, responsibilities, and membership structure
- Goal: have draft bylaws ready for the next meeting for review and approval.

Other Business / Action Items

- Pete to meet with Terry (IDL/OEM) for updates on incident management teams.
- Work on inclusive contact list for five northern counties with Patty's assistance.
- Develop draft bylaws and circulate prior to next meeting.
- Explore revenue opportunities for the organization (dues, apparel, events).
- Plan training initiatives in collaboration with FST and NAESA.
- Maintain liaison with regional fire chief's associations (e.g., Inland Empire) to track trends.

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Adjournment

- Meeting concluded with agreement to continue bylaw development and expand engagement with northern counties.