

This is Will Ewing from Seal Rock Fire. At the Seal Rock Board meeting held on Thursday March 17th 2022 I was hired by the Board of Directors to be the Fire Chief for Seal Rock Fire District. No doubt you may have heard that before this I was providing that service through a contract that began in October 2021.

So, who am I? Well, I have been in the fire service since 1980. I began my years of service as a volunteer in Southern Oregon. Specifically Cave Junction. I was a young and eager volunteer and progressed through the volunteer ranks to achieve the rank of captain. I was hired as the training officer for the Illinois Valley Fire District and capped my stint there as Deputy Chief.

May, of 1999 I relocated to Toledo, right here in Lincoln County. My first task as Fire Chief was Y2K preparation which set the tone for disaster planning. After the 2004 Indonesian earthquake and tsunami I took a long hard look at Cascadia and developed a disaster mindset and plan to match the potential problems that Cascadia presents. After 19 years with the City of Toledo my employment was terminated as a result of a disagreement with the City Manager. Whether one wants to call it insubordination or accountability, the result was that the City Manager out ranked me and away I went.

I then had the opportunity to go help the small district of Idanha Detroit Fire District in East Marion County. We waded through several major challenges together out there and the district was rebounding from previous management issues. We righted the ship just in time for September 2020. As we all remember, the wind event of that year was severe and the fire behavior all over the state was incredible. One interesting thing regarding that event was that despite being a disaster of a different type the plan I had for Cascadia worked for that event. We safely evacuated the area and no one was injured or killed. The bad news was that a very significant portion of the district tax base was destroyed by the fire. Myself and Damond Faust spent the next 8 months working on recovery grants. In the end we were able to raise over 3 million dollars for supplemental funding and a new fire station.

I came aboard here in October of 21 as a contractor. At the same time I had to come to terms with my part time job in Idanha Detroit. I found that I had used all my energy during the previous year working on recovery and had neglected the

responders. I felt it in their best interest to turn the reins over out there and refocus my energy down here.

In the past 42 years I have responded to thousands of calls and successfully mitigated them with no loss of responder's lives. But more to the point I honed my skills as a business manager, budget and financial management, risk management, development of a solid response capability, and more. I have a fairly good track record with grant writing and project management.

That brings me to Seal Rock Fire District. As the county Fire Defense Board Chief, I have worked with Seal Rock Fire in the past. While with Toledo Fire I provided many trainings regionally which included Seal Rock. I was asked to help in October and now find myself with the honor of being your Fire Chief. My heart is that of a volunteer, and together with our Career folks we are on the way to greatness. My door is always open, well almost. Feel free to stop in and say hi! Will