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New Fire Commissioner for East County Fire and Rescue

CAMAS, WASH. – East County Fire and Rescue appointed a new fire commissioner at its August 7 meeting. Joshua Seeds assumed Commissioner Tom Gianatasio’s seat, who passed away last month.

Commissioner Seeds has lived near Washougal for the past 10 years. He lives with his partner and four children and works as a scientist for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. His work on water quality issues, forestry, and land use gives him a unique perspective on communication and collaboration involving policy, elected officials and communities.

His interest in serving on the commission stems from a core value of public service and his work with state and federal agencies, such as the Oregon Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. His family owns a homestead farm, which sits in the wildland-urban interface. This location and use is familiar for many in East County Fire and Rescue who have properties in a similar area that are at risk of wildland fires.

“I’m a rural resident who understands the need for fire safe properties in these areas,” he said. “My goal is to support more public education and help homeowners create defensible spaces around their properties. We also need to improve access for fire engines and encourage fire safe behavior.”

On a personal level, Commissioner Seeds enjoys hiking, hunting, and farm and forestry work.

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East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) serves 10,000 people over 60 square miles in the unincorporated areas of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all its independent audits by the state. The level of service provided by ECFR has improved the community’s insurance rating, which reduced premiums for home and business owners. More information on East County Fire and Rescue can be found on its web site www.ecfr.us.