



February 18, 2021

To: King County Fire Chiefs  
Subject: Officer Development Academy – ODA

**Background:**

Over the last several years the Officer Development Academy (ODA) has been undergoing some major changes. After auditing the program, we realized that most of the clients were from outside the county and that most classes did not cover the cost of administering the class.

Consequently, we asked the leaders of the training consortiums (South King, North, EMTG and Seattle) to look at the curriculum and recommend how best to offer the program moving into the future. They are working with the Pierce County Community Colleges to partner in providing ODA equivalent classes in conjunction with college credits. At the same time at least one private entity has stood up a program to deliver ODA style classes.

Additionally, we recognize that fire departments within King County all utilize ODA differently. Some do not have any requirement for ODA while others list it as a promotional requirement within their CBA's.

The last consideration is the considerable effort that the State Fire Chiefs have undergone to adopt standard training guidelines for each promotional level of the Washington fire service.

**Recommendation:**

The King County Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board recognizes that the decision around how to deliver ODA is a local decision. In support of our member agencies, we recommend that agencies consider the following when deciding what to do when considering ODA programs:

*Consideration 1* – Ensure that whatever delivery mechanism is chosen adheres to the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Draft Washington State Fire Chiefs Fire Service Training and Education Workgroup

**KING COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jeff Clark Eric Hicks Matt Morris Bruce Kroon Harold Scoggins Randy Fehr Steve Heitman

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*Consideration 2* – Utilize any ODA delivery system that works to meet the goals you have established locally.

*Consideration 3* – The King County Chiefs Association will continue to work with our Training Officers to ensure a baseline ODA program will be offered through a community college program.

Respectfully,

Jeff Clark  
President, King County Fire Chiefs Association

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