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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**S.E. Thurston Fire Chief Invites Community to October Coffee Chats**  
*Residents invited to share feedback and hear updates on fire service*

YELM, Wash.— Southeast Thurston Fire Authority (SETFA) Fire Chief Mark King will host a series of “Coffee with the Chief” events this October. These informal gatherings give community members the chance to meet with Chief King, ask questions, and hear updates about their fire service.

Coffee will be served at the following dates and locations:

- Monday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. – Station 21 (709 Mill Rd. SE, Yelm)
- Wednesday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – Station 24 (12506 133rd Ave. SE, Rainier)
- Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. – Station 22 (17213 153rd Ave. SE, Yelm)

“These coffee hours are a great way for me to connect with residents and hear directly what’s on their minds,” said Fire Chief Mark King. “It’s also an opportunity to share what we’re working on at SETFA—both the successes we’re proud of and the challenges we need to prepare for as our community grows.”

SETFA’s Board of Fire Commissioners recently reviewed the agency’s Capital Facilities Plan, which outlines needed station improvements and equipment replacements over the next decade. If implemented, these would be the first major facility updates in 30 years. Because costs will exceed current levy funding, commissioners are beginning to explore additional options, such as a future bond measure. Chief King expects these and other issues, including wildfire preparedness, will be on residents’ minds during the coffee events.

All community members are encouraged to attend—whether to ask questions, share feedback, or simply stop by to say hello.

For more information, email [info@setfa.org](mailto:info@setfa.org) or call 360-458-2799.

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*Southeast Thurston Fire Authority provides emergency response for fires and emergency medical service to 30,000 people over 120 square miles, including the cities of Yelm, Rainier and surrounding unincorporated areas. SETFA relies on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel to respond to more than 4,000 calls per year. Learn more at [www.sethurstonfire.org](http://www.sethurstonfire.org).*