

# MEMO



## PRESS RELEASE

DATE:	January 29 2025
TO:	WKRFA Customers
FROM:	Wes Long – Fire Chief

Continuing with passionate visions to improve fire suppression services in the SW Klickitat County area, West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority continues to make subtle changes that will directly improve the future of our services to the citizens we serve. We are slowly preparing the organization for organizational improvements that are intended to support our heroic volunteers who give so much every day. Our members are the core of everything we do!

After an internal promotional process, I am proud to announce the promotion of Firefighter Scott Perela and Firefighter Jarin Ladiges to the rank of Lieutenant - effective immediately.

Scott Perela comes to WKRFA from the City of White Salmon Fire Department with a long history of giving to his community through service to others. Lieutenant Perela has served in previous departments such as Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, and Tulane EMS in New Orleans Louisiana as an Emergency Medical Technician. He began his service with our organization in 2017 and continues to be instrumental with in-company leadership and mentoring. He has provided our agency with the tools we need to accomplish future goals related to our fire cadet program. Through his leadership, we have a planned and safe program with goals to integrate into the local vocational education programs for a safe and effective program that gives our high school students the opportunity to learn about fire and EMS services. Lieutenant Perela is supported by his wonderful family and is a construction project manager for highly regarded employers in the area.

Jarin Ladiges comes to WKRFA through the ranks of Klickitat County Fire District 3 with previous volunteer time beginning in 2010 and returning in 2023. In that time, Lieutenant Ladiges has key experience with wildland firefighting as an engine member for Washington Department of Natural Resources. He's also acquired heavy equipment experience on wildland fire assignments in the region. Lieutenant Ladiges excels in leadership through mentoring, improving his personal skillsets and can navigate today's technology to improve our operations. His experience with financial matters in his personal time is also an asset for our leadership team. Jarin is also supported by his wonderful family and is a heavy equipment operator for a highly regarded local employer.

As West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority continues to make steps to achieve our promise to our voters who approved formation of WKRFA, we are taking steps to address future attrition at all levels to ensure seamless gaps in leadership – over time. Our lieutenants will go through accelerated training exposure with the support of the fire chiefs and captains to learn the social and business end of fire service delivery to our customers.

Please join me by congratulating Lieutenant's Perela and Ladiges with their new promotion.

We will achieve the promises to our voters and earn their trust in everything we do.

  
Wesley W. Long – Fire Chief



**Lieutenant Scott Perela**



**Lieutenant Jarin Ladiges**