

For immediate release  
February 23, 2011

Contact:  
Autumn Waite  
Public Information Officer/Public Educator  
360-282-3956  
425-328-0376 cell  
[awaite@firedistrict7.com](mailto:awaite@firedistrict7.com)

### **Snohomish County Fire District 7 Lieutenant Fighting Lymphoma**

---

Clearview, Wash. – Fire departments are always there to help others, and now, Snohomish County Fire District 7 is stepping up to help one of their own. Fire District 7 Lieutenant/Paramedic Rick Peters was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Peters, who was experiencing extreme stomach and back pain, went to the emergency room on January 28. Within 24 hours he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and within one week, had already started his treatment. With one round of chemotherapy complete, Peters is doing extremely well and is confident about the fight ahead.

Peters, in addition to being a lieutenant/paramedic, represents Fire District 7 firefighters as the President of International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2781. Although he had served as President before, he stepped into the role again just days before he went into the hospital. Despite his recent diagnosis, he is determined to continue his work as a leader with Fire District 7.

“We have all been amazed by his dedication to this department,” explained Fire Chief Rick Eastman. “He has given, and continues to give, so much to this department and community. We are here to support him in his fight.”

Peters will celebrate 20 years with Fire District 7 on February 27. He was hired as a firefighter/paramedic in 1991, and was promoted to a lieutenant in 2008. For the past three years, he has worked out of the Bear Creek Fire Station (Station 73), which serves the southwest portion of Fire District 7. After spending so many years caring for others, he has had a hard time becoming the patient and letting others care for him.

“The support has been overwhelming,” said Peters. “I knew I had a great family here at Fire District 7, but the outpouring of generosity has been more than I could have expected. I am in good spirits. I am surrounded by great friends and loved ones. Rest assured this journey will make us all stronger.”

Peters’ doctors are hopeful he will be in remission after six months of chemotherapy treatment.

More information is available at [www.iafflocal2781.org](http://www.iafflocal2781.org). Updates are also available at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickpeters>.

#### **Upcoming Events to Support Lieutenant Peters:**

**Sunday, February 27**, 10 a.m., Station 71 (8010 180<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Snohomish, 98296): “Bald is Beautiful” - friends and family will gather to show their support by shaving their heads. The public is welcome to attend.

**Sunday, March 6:** Fire District 7 Firefighter’s Bill Ekse and Matt Nuttbrock will race up 69 floors of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The annual Scott Firefighter Stair Climb features firefighters from all over the world as they climb 1,311 steps in full bunker gear, weighing approximately 50 pounds. This year, Fire District 7 firefighters will be climbing in honor of Lt. Peters. To donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of this team, visit [http://www.llswa.org/site/TR/Events/General?team\\_id=37130&pg=team&fr\\_id=1161](http://www.llswa.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=37130&pg=team&fr_id=1161).

**Sunday, March 20:** The “Big Climb” takes place on March 20 and is open to the general public. Anyone can participate in the Big Climb in honor of Lt. Peters by joining the team “Rescue Me” (join or donate at [http://www.llswa.org/site/TR/Events/BigClimb?team\\_id=34681&pg=team&fr\\_id=1160](http://www.llswa.org/site/TR/Events/BigClimb?team_id=34681&pg=team&fr_id=1160) ). The Big Climb is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s largest fundraiser, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.

Any donations made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society benefit their mission: To cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

**Pictures below:**

