

SCR 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Commends the Mill City Rural Fire Protection District, first responders and other public and private entities for their heroic actions in fighting the Santiam Fire of 2020.

August 16, 2020, thunderstorms and lightning ignited multiple wildfires, including Beachie Creek Fire, the Lionshead Fire and the P-515 Fire. On September 7, 2020, strong winds caused wildfires to expand and merge into the Santiam Fire.

By the morning hours of September 8th, the Santiam Fire reached westward, down the Santiam Canyon, endangering communities including Detroit, Gates, Idanha, Lyons and Mill City. Facing catastrophic and unpredictable conditions, fire crews of the Mill City Rural Fire Protection District, Chief Leland Ohrt, and approximately 30 volunteers, evacuated residents of Santiam Canyon. Mill City emerged from the wildfire largely intact, including the survival of an estimated 90 percent of Mill City's homes and businesses and no loss of life in the community.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND: