



San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1
San Juan Island Emergency Medical Services
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Response to Guest Column “EMTs Express Their Concerns”

On September 8, 2020, the District received a letter from 21 EMTs making a series of allegations about our agency. This was later published in the Journal. We fully understand that the public may have concerns as a result.

First, three-quarters of the signatories are primarily firefighters. Many are full-time employees of the Fire District or have ranking roles in the Fire District. Only five could be considered primarily San Juan Island EMS. The hours listed on their letter includes all of their firefighter hours, which is misleading.

The Fire District has their own EMS service now, although it does not provide transport or Advanced Life Support. They are EMTs, but they aren't primarily our EMTs.

This is just the latest incident in a long string of unfortunate incidents between us and the Fire District staff, volunteers, and leadership.

There have been no safety incidents. Our financials are sound. We did change leadership in August, which they are not required to like, but it is our prerogative. We do provide a more advanced level of training than they do, which they object to, but it's how we do things. Our mechanism for self-improvement does not include trying to undermine partner agencies.

We have seen a number incidents of retaliation by some of the signers of this letter against people in our agency. Their letter itself was an act of retaliation.

If any member of the public wants to read our full response to this group it is found at <https://sjcphd.org/contactus/media>