



May 20, 2020

Greetings from Your Executive Director:

As we enter the phased re-opening portion of the pandemic, there was a very timely post from the Police Executive Research Forum this week (we post all of these daily updates on our COVID Resources page by the way). The [update](#) highlights the issue of "Quarantine Fatigue" turning into "Quarantine Anger". As we have discussed in these updates regularly, there is a strong push to put our law enforcement officers and deputies in the middle of what can be a polarized environment. Today we are posting this [statement](#) on our social media pages and are sending to you, to use as you wish. It defines the approach many departments have been taking and hopefully helps to define why this approach has been taken at this unique period. **Focusing on education and engagement, while not taking enforcement off the table as a last resort, has been a key message for many Sheriffs and Chiefs.**

A very relevant and related occasion was observed this week with the **40th anniversary of the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption**. There was a webinar conducted by vulcanologists from this area, including UW Prof. Steven Malone, who was at the site and directly involved in studying the eruption and the warning signs leading up to it forty years ago. If you are interested, here is the [link](#) to the webinar.

Prof. Malone notes that his experience in 1980 parallels much of what we are seeing today- you will find this information at the 50:51 mark in the webinar:

- The ambiguity of forecasts based on parallels with previous events in the presence of incomplete data and understanding.
- Civil decision makers look to science for advice but have lots of other pressures.
- News media is obsessed with the unfolding story and emphasizes controversy.
- Second guessing after initial confusion and excitement.

As the media emphasize controversy and we enter a social-media driven phase of second-guessing, we are in the middle. It was true forty years ago and is true today.

Here is a useful [link from the CDC](#) that provides a graphic representation of the *normally expected* number of deaths per week in the US, adjusted seasonally, and the *excess* number now based on historical averages.

The bottom line is that week-over-week **nationally there is some proportional increase in overall deaths**, as compared to what would normally be expected- and, it does provide some context. The site also allows you to break that out by state.

Next, here is a link to a [podcast](#) we posted this week featuring **Grant County Sheriff Tom Jones**- the Sheriff discusses how he and his team are managing the challenges at this time, and how he helps communicate with the entire community as their elected Sheriff. These podcasts are always posted on our website, or are available, as they say "wherever you get your podcasts", including Android and Apple podcast apps.

Here is some information from our colleagues at **Starbucks**:

While communities continue to carefully manage reopenings in light of COVID-19, we appreciate access to restroom facilities remains uneven. Starbucks has temporarily closed restroom access to the general public in support of public health; however, we are pleased to make our facilities available to uniformed emergency responders while on duty. As a company, we recognize that emergency responders work long hours and might not have immediate access to basic services - as such, Starbucks is making its restrooms available to make your day a little easier.

We respectfully request when stopping by one of our stores, emergency responders observe social distancing protocol and wear facial coverings when entering our locations. Starbucks is committed to protecting our partners, the communities we serve, and emergency responders like you. We truly appreciate your service and support during these unprecedented times.

We are communicating this information to all US and Canada retail stores. We request your patience over the next few days as it will take time to ensure our partners (employees) are aware.

Finally, many of you attended last fall's WASPC Conference in Chelan (that seems about three years ago doesn't it?) and saw **Dr. Javidi** speak about resilience- along with some of his colleague he just published this [article](#) and passed it along.

Have a great week- and stay safe-

Steve

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs