



For Immediate Release

19-001

Commissioner Price Announces New Fire Marshal, AST Colonel

Fire Marshal Rich Boothby, AST Colonel Barry Wilson bring wealth of experience to new roles

January 16, 2019 (ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – Department of Public Safety Commissioner Amanda Price today announced new director-level appointments as she continues building out the DPS Leadership Team. **Richard Boothby** has been hired as the Alaska State Fire Marshal and Director of the Division of Fire and Life Safety (DF&LS), replacing David Tyler, who retired at the end of 2018. **Captain Barry Wilson** has been appointed to serve as Colonel and Director of the Division of the Alaska State Troopers.

“Richard’s previous experience with DPS, wealth of expertise on fire protection issues, and deep connections throughout the state will make him an incredible asset to DPS and DF&LS; Barry is effectively placed as Director and Colonel, with a vast knowledge of challenges specific to rural communities, extensive command experience, and a deep understanding of the public safety challenges facing Alaskans.” Commissioner Price said. “I am pleased to have both of them joining our leadership team and continuing the critical work of keeping Alaskans safe.”

Mr. Boothby has a long and distinguished career in fire protection and returns to DPS from serving as the Fire Chief for the Willow/Caswell Fire Department, a position he has held since 2017. Mr. Boothby began his fire career in 1983, when he joined the Summit South Hill Fire Department in Washington State. After relocating to Alaska, he joined the Wasilla Fire Department (now the Central Mat-Su Fire Department) in 1987, DPS in 2005 as a plan reviewer in the State Fire Marshal’s Office, and in late 2006 transferred back to the Central Mat-Su Fire Department as a Fire Code Official/Battalion Chief, remaining in that role until 2017.

Captain Wilson promotes to Colonel after nearly eight years as Commander of AST’s C Detachment, which encompasses Western Alaska and the Aleutians. Captain Wilson was raised in Anchorage, Alaska, and joined AST in 1990, beginning a nearly three-decade career in law enforcement. During his time with AST, Captain Wilson rose to the rank of Captain, and also served as an Investigator and Coordinator of the Search and Rescue Office, before transferring to C Detachment in 2011. Captain Wilson will be an integral part of work to improve morale, expand training, and develop strategic planning to make certain effective staffing is available throughout Alaska.

Mr. Boothby and Captain Wilson began their new positions today.

###

Media Contact: Jonathon Taylor, Communications Director – (907) 269-5654
jonathon.taylor@alaska.gov