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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Metro Fire Rescue Appoints Tobias Kirschke as Assistant Chief of Employee Services

Centennial, Colo. — (Jan. 12, 2021) — South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) announces the appointment of Tobias Kirschke as the Assistant Chief of the newly-created Employee Services Division. In his role, Chief Kirschke is now responsible for the oversight and supervision of various business functions and bureaus at SMFR including Human Resources, Wellness, Peer Support and Professional Development. The appointment of Chief Kirschke became effective at the first of the year.

South Metro recently updated the department's organizational chart, adding new positions such as Chief Kirschke's, in order to continue to best meet the needs of its employees and the community it serves. Currently, SMFR provides service to 540,000 residents covering 287 square miles in the Denver-Metro area. In addition, SMFR has over 750 line and staff employees who work throughout its 30 stations and additional administration and training facilities.

With the recent growth of SMFR – including both its district and its employee-base – SMFR wanted to place a heightened focus on the wellness and support of its staff and line employees, as well as an increased emphasis on professional development and promoting a positive culture for the organization and all those who work there.

“Aligning HR, Wellness, Peer Support and Professional Development under our newly-created Employee Services Division will allow us to focus on our people, which in turn allows them to continue to take the best possible care of our citizens,” said SMFR Fire Chief Bob Baker. “There is no doubt that Chief

Kirschke's exceptional leadership and vision, as well as years of experience in the fire service, will be a great asset to leading this Division and we are very excited to have him in this role."

Beginning his career at South Metro in 1995, Chief Kirschke has served in the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief and most recently District Chief. In addition, he was assigned to the Training Division for more than two years and has been an instructor at Red Rocks Community College for three years. Chief Kirschke also has extensive experience with SMFR Special Teams including Dive, Heavy Rescue, Wildland and Colorado Task Force 1; and has been recognized many times at South Metro for his leadership and unwavering support for the community. Chief Kirschke's education includes an associate degree from Red Rocks Community College, a bachelor's degree from Cal State University of Fullerton, and a master's degree from The University of Denver.

"Working in the fire service and taking care of citizens is a great privilege and honor," said Chief Kirschke. "We often see people on their worst days – and it is our responsibility to make sure we are at our best on those days. I am honored to be working in a leadership role that is committed to ensure that our South Metro personnel have the resources and opportunities in place to make sure this happens."

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About South Metro Fire Rescue

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is committed to helping the community it serves, including 287 square miles in Douglas and Arapahoe counties. With 29 stations in the south metro area, and a 30th under construction set to open in Spring 2021, SMFR provides emergency and prevention services to approximately 540,000 residents and thousands more who come into our communities to work. Specifically, SMFR serves the cities of Bow Mar, Castle Pines, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Lone Tree, and Parker, as well as Castle Pines Village, Highlands Ranch, Louviers, Centennial Airport, the Denver Tech Center, Inverness, and the Meridian Office Park as well as unincorporated portions of Arapahoe and Douglas counties. For more information, please visit <http://www.southmetro.org>.