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Prior Lake Hires Hartman as First Full-Time Fire Chief

The City of Prior Lake hired current paid-on-call Prior Lake Fire Chief Doug Hartman as its new full-time fire chief subject to standardized pre-employment testing. Hartman has been with the department for 19 years, the last three years as paid-on-call fire chief. Hartman is Prior Lake's first full-time chief.

As the new full-time fire chief, Hartman will be responsible for 24-hour fire emergency response for about 24,000 citizens and 11,000 dwelling units within Prior Lake (along with approximately 21,000 citizens in Credit River and Spring Lake Townships), and he will look after the city's two fire stations along with all its equipment which includes some of the taxpayer's largest financial investments. Hartman will also oversee the training and management of 40 volunteer paid-per-call firefighters and proactive fire prevention and communication efforts within nearly 72 square miles of city and township area.

Prior Lake has many large residential and commercial properties that will now get regular fire inspections, and the two townships, that pay 35% of the fire department's budget, will receive additional fire support.

"Having a full time fire chief will be a tremendous asset to our emergency services team which includes fire, police and ambulance. Considering the number of lives and properties at stake, our volunteer fire department needs the leadership of a full-time manager. The experience and expertise that Doug brings made him the perfect choice for the position, even when compared to full-time and volunteer chiefs who applied from around the nation," says Prior Lake City Manager Frank Boyles. "Within one year I expect Doug to lead several significant improvements to our department."