



City of Ukiah

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CITY OF UKIAH ANNOUNCES DOUGLAS HUTCHISON AS NEW FIRE CHIEF

**Ukiah, CA. January 31, 2019** – The City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Valley Fire District are pleased to welcome Douglas Hutchison as Fire Chief of the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority (UVFA).

Mr. Hutchison’s extensive background and experience will bring a great deal of operational, technical, and administrative expertise to UVFA. Hutchison was selected after a thorough examination and background process.

Hutchison comes to UVFA most recently from the Lakeport Fire District, where he has been serving as the Fire Chief since June 2014. He began his career in the fires service over 34 years ago, starting while in high school as a volunteer with the Pleasant Hill Fire District outside of Eugene, Oregon.

Upon graduating he entered the U.S. Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist. After his military service, Hutchison promoted through the ranks from Firefighter/EMT to Captain/Paramedic with the City of Vancouver (WA) Fire Department and an associated district. In 1998, Hutchison took on a fire chief position with Klickitat County Fire District #14 in Washington where he served for over 15 years before accepting his current chief position in Lake County.

Chief Hutchison has extensive experience with combination agencies like the partnership between the City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Valley Fire District. He experienced a similar consolidation model with the City of Vancouver and County Clark Fire District 5 merger in 1994.

On a personal note, Hutchison enjoys spending time with his family. He has been married to his wife Laurie, a former Portland firefighter for 18 years. They have 3 children together – 2 boys, 1 girl, ages 12, 8 and 7. In accepting the position, he stated, “I am very excited to work with an organization that has so much support and is the start of the same amazing journey I experienced when Vancouver and Fire District 5 merged. We were able to draw on our individual histories, while completely reimagining and creating a new future.”

Hutchison will officially begin on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



Chief Hutchison with daughter Dani

  
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager