



Erik Hotchkiss
Firefighter for 9 years
Battalion Chief
Seattle, WA Fire Department



Erik has led a life committed to the service, care, and protection of others. After serving our country in the Navy, where he worked on the flight deck and with the Shipboard Fire Response Team, Erik attended the Forestry Management Program at the University of Washington. Erik was a resident firefighter at Fire District 25 in the Renton Highlands (now Renton Fire Station 16) before joining the Seattle Fire Department in 1992. Now a Battalion Chief, Erik is also involved with the Department of Natural Resources in their wildland firefighting efforts and was a crew chief for teams deployed for assistance with fires within and outside of Washington.

Erik was involved in a life-threatening dirt bike accident in 2019. Although an experienced, cautious, and well-protected rider, he was thrown from his bike and sustained a cervical spine injury called Central Cord Syndrome. The heroic intervention of two hikers saved his life. Erik underwent surgery to stabilize his spine and is now at a spinal cord injury rehabilitation facility, Craig Hospital. With the support of his wife Hilary, two adult children, and his community, Erik must now tackle what will surely be a lengthy and challenging recovery.

Erik Hotchkiss, **YOU ARE LIONHARDT.**