



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 15, 2015  
Contact: Mike Bucy, Fire Chief  
Office (509) 262-9660 Cell (509) 953-3189 [mbucy@scfpd1.com](mailto:mbucy@scfpd1.com)

**Fire District 1 Board to hold public meetings on funding for emergency services**  
*Bond and levy considered for November election*

(Clayton, Wash.) – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 will hold two public meetings to take input about funding for a plan to improve emergency services. The fire district has spent the last several months communicating about the challenges it is facing to provide an adequate emergency response for the 22,000 people it serves. Record high call volumes, a decline in volunteer firefighters and aging facilities are impacting the agency’s ability to respond to emergencies.

Fire Commissioners will meet June 1 and June 15 to consider a resolution asking voters to approve a bond for facilities and a levy lid lift for fire district operations on the November General Election ballot. The estimated amount for both measures would be 52.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$8.75 per month (\$105 per year) for the owner of a \$200,000 home.

A 20-year bond would replace two aging fire stations at Suncrest and Loon Lake, reducing response times by an average of five minutes. The reason for this is that the new stations would contain sleeping quarters, so firefighters can respond directly from the station as opposed to home or work which can take longer.

The levy lid lift would hire one full-time firefighter and help fund the fire district’s equipment replacement program. Another firefighter will provide some relief for existing volunteers and add one more person to day time shifts when call volumes are highest.

The June 1 meeting will be at the Suncrest Station (5990 Highway 291, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026). On June 15, the meeting will move to the Loon Lake Station (4009 North Cedar Street, Loon Lake, WA 99148). Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. Those unable to attend may send written communication to Chief Mike Bucy at [mbucy@scfpd1.com](mailto:mbucy@scfpd1.com) or Stevens County Fire Protection District 1, PO Box 246, Clayton, WA 99110. All communication is welcome and becomes part of the public record.

Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 provides structure and wildland fire protection, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical service for 13,500 people (22,000 during the summer) over 375 square miles. The fire chief, seven full-time and 40 volunteer firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) respond to an average of 1,100 calls per year.

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**STEVENS COUNTY**

# Fire Protection District 1

4532 Railroad Avenue  
PO Box 246  
Clayton, WA 99110  
(509) 262-9660  
[www.scfpd1.com](http://www.scfpd1.com)