



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire District 1 invites public to meetings about lid lift, bond measure

(Clayton, Wash.) - Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 is asking voters to approve a levy lid lift and a bond on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. The ballot measures will help meet the increased demand for emergency services and replace two fire stations to reduce response times.

Call volumes have increased by 21 percent in the last year. Twenty percent of volunteer firefighters have left due to age or work commitments, and the fire district is struggling to keep up. In addition, the fire district's busiest stations at Loon Lake and Suncrest pose a risk to firefighter health and safety and need to be replaced.

Fire district officials are inviting community members to attend an upcoming meeting to ask questions about the ballot measures. The meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Oct. 14 – 6 to 7 p.m. at the Loon Lake Station at 4009 Cedar Street, Loon Lake, WA 99148
- Wednesday, Oct. 28 – 6 to 7 p.m. at the Suncrest Station at 5990 Highway 291, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the stations and see firsthand the safety hazards at each facility. Refreshments will be provided.

The lid lift would pay for one additional full-time firefighter to provide some relief to current staff and to replace aging equipment, which no longer meets recognized safety standards.

The bond would build stations with sleeping quarters, which is estimated to improve emergency response times by five minutes on average. The stations also would include decontamination units, training space and proper ventilation to move exhaust fumes away from personnel inside buildings.

Combined, the measures would cost the average homeowner an additional 52.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$8.75 per month. Property taxes paid to the district are deductible on federal income tax returns, which reduce the overall amount paid.

For more information about the ballot measures, please visit <http://scfpd1.com/about/proposed-funding-measures/> or contact Fire Chief Mike Bucy directly at mbucy@scfpd1.com or (509) 262-9660.

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 1,200 calls per year.

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