



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Stevens County Fire District 1 works to improve communication with taxpayers**

(Clayton, Wash.) – Stevens County Fire District 1 is taking steps to improve communication with its taxpayers. The fire district, which covers more than 375 square miles in northeastern Washington, is creating multiple avenues to provide people with information.

Stevens County Fire District 1 has a newsletter that it sends to all households four times a year. It also recently updated its web site ([www.scfpd1.com](http://www.scfpd1.com)) to make it more user-friendly.

Social media has been a huge resource to share information for a fire district that covers so much territory. Chief Mike Bucy maintains a Facebook page for the fire district at [www.facebook.com/StevensCountyFireDistrictNo.1](http://www.facebook.com/StevensCountyFireDistrictNo.1). People are encouraged to “Like” the organization to receive regular updates, and almost 1,900 have done so.

Chief Bucy is also available to speak at service organizations, homeowner associations and other community groups. Interested parties are encouraged to contact him personally at (509) 262-9660 or [mbucy@scfpd1.com](mailto:mbucy@scfpd1.com) to schedule a presentation.

“We serve eight distinct communities so reaching people is a challenge,” said Fire Chief Mike Bucy. “But, we need them to know about the challenges we are facing to provide adequate emergency services.”

Record call volumes, a decline in volunteer firefighters and antiquated fire stations are making it difficult for this mostly-volunteer fire district to keep up with the rising demand for emergency services.

The Board of Fire Commissioners will consider asking voters to approve a bond this fall to replace two fire stations, which would reduce response times by an average of five minutes. In addition to the bond, Fire Commissioners are considering a levy lid lift for operations to hire one full-time firefighter and better fund the fire district’s equipment replacement program.

The estimated amount for the bond and levy lid lift 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. An extensive public process will take place this summer before the Board votes to put any funding measure on the ballot.

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**

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