



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 14, 2016
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Fire District 1 To Re-Run Station Bond After Ballot Issues

Every Vote Does Count!

(Clayton, Wash.) – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Stevens County Fire Protection District 1 voted unanimously to re-run the station replacement bond. The bond failed during the November 3, 2015, general election by 28 votes. However, there were many ballots that did not have the bond initiative printed on them. The Fire District estimates that between 134 and 287 ballots were blank.

The Fire District continues to battle higher run volumes while struggling to maintain efficient responses.

The two stations targeted for replacement are the facilities in Suncrest and Loon Lake. Suncrest is the busiest, yet smallest, of all the Fire District's 8 stations. Loon Lake is the second busiest and second smallest. New apparatus needs to be ordered for these stations but would not fit once delivered.

The goal of these stations is to reduce response times District-wide by providing different staffing models utilizing paid, resident (live-in volunteers) and our traditional volunteer firefighters.

Fire District 1 also plans space for an emergency ambulance and crew. Currently, Deer Park Ambulance is the District's paramedic and transport provider. This could reduce ambulance response times by up to 40 minutes.

Each station shares the same design and footprint to reduce projects costs. The design process is over 4.5 years in the making and has included both volunteer and paid firefighters, the fire chief and fire commissioners. The public also had input through a series of meetings guided by an architectural firm that specializes in public safety buildings.

The amount of the bond would be \$6.5 million over 19 years. This translates to roughly 39 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market values). The average Fire District 1 home carries an AV of around \$100,000. The bond would cost the average homeowner \$3.25 per month, \$39.00 per year or only \$741.00 for the life of the bond.

For more information about this bond, please visit or contact Fire Chief Mike Bucy directly at mbucy@scfpd1.com or (509) 262-9660.

Stevens Fire 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, eight full-time and 35 volunteer firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) responded to an average of 1,418 calls over the past two years.