



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chief Available to Speak About Fire Levy Lid Lift

Stanwood, Wash. – Fire Chief John Cermak is available to speak about the levy lid lift on the November 5 General Election ballot for voters in the North County Regional Fire Authority. If approved by voters, funding would be used to hire up to six emergency personnel and purchase supporting apparatus and equipment to respond to calls.

Chief Cermak is looking for invitations to speak with local community service organizations, home owner associations, water systems, churches, parent-teacher groups, or other gatherings of people who would like to learn more about the proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to contact him at (425) 789-8036 or jcermak@northcountyfireems.com to schedule a presentation.

The Fire Authority has spent the past six months educating its community about call volume increases and the need for additional staffing. Emergency call volumes have increased 37 percent since 2013, resulting in longer response times. The Fire Authority recently completed a Strategic Plan with extensive public input, which outlines how it can resolve this problem.

The Strategic Plan calls for additional funding to meet the growing demand for service. The Board of Fire Commissioners recently approved a resolution asking voters to consider a 14-cent fire levy lid lift during the November 5 General Election.

If the lid lift is approved, the fire levy would return to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is the same rate voters approved in 2008. The lid lift would last for six years and cost the average homeowner approximately \$49 per year (\$4.08 per month).

“The fact is that we need to hire additional personnel to respond,” said Chief John Cermak. “We are working to get ahead of this issue before it becomes a problem, and need our community to partner with us on the solution.”

Chief Cermak says that he expects to make more than two dozen presentations to community organizations. In addition, the Fire Authority will host public meetings to answer questions closer to the election. More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found on the Fire Authority’s web site at www.northcountyfireems.com.

“We will leave no stone unturned to make sure our citizens have information and their questions are answered,” Chief Cermak said. “I am looking forward to visiting with our community over the months ahead.”

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North County Regional Fire Authority, known as “North County Fire & EMS,” provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 25,000 people over 110 square miles, including the City of Stanwood. More than 70 emergency personnel respond to approximately 4,200 calls per year. North County Fire & EMS is debt-free, operates under a balanced budget and has passed all its independent audits by the State. More information about the Fire Authority can be found at www.northcountyfireems.com.