



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Questions About the Fire Levy Lid Lift? Come to One of Our Meetings!

Stanwood, Wash. – North County Regional Fire Authority (also known as North County Fire & EMS) invites community members with questions about the fire levy lid lift to two upcoming meetings. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 19 at 9:00 a.m. Both meetings will be hosted at the Headquarters Fire Station, 8117-267th St. NW in Stanwood.

“We are doing everything possible to make sure our community has answers to their questions,” said Fire Chief John Cermak. “If you can’t make a meeting? Call me personally so we can talk about what this fire levy lid lift means to emergency service levels.”

Chief John Cermak is available at (425) 789-8036 or jcermak@northcountyfireems.com.

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 completed a Strategic Plan earlier this year that calls for additional funding to meet the growing demand for service. The Board of Fire Commissioners approved a resolution asking voters to consider a 14-cent fire levy lid lift during the November 5 General Election. Funding would be used to hire up to six additional firefighters, provide a safe and effective training program to fulfill the mission of the organization, and maintain and purchase emergency apparatus for them to respond.

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 hope our community will partner with us on this solution. To hire more personnel, we must support the training of these personnel.”

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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.

