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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EMS levy lid lift on the August primary election ballot***Community invited to Q&A sessions to learn more*

STANWOOD, WASH. – North County Fire & EMS invites the community to learn more about the EMS levy lid lift that will be on the August 1, 2023, primary election ballot. The purpose of the lid lift is to improve the safety of the community and its emergency personnel.

**Learn more at a question-and-answer session:**

* Saturday, July 15, 10 am-noon, at Station 46, 137 N. MacLeod Ave., in Arlington
* Saturday, July 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Station 99, 8117 267th St. NW, in Stanwood
* Wednesday, July 19, 5 pm-7 pm, at Station 48, 4228 Airport Blvd., in Arlington

Fire Chief John Cermak will be available to answer any questions.

The EMS lid lift would fund additional personnel to respond to higher call volumes. EMS calls account for 86 percent of all emergency calls, and there are times when emergency personnel are out of service for up to four hours while transporting a patient to an area hospital.

The EMS lid lift would pay for up to six firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics per shift to provide an additional transport unit and full-time staffing at Station 96 in Freeborn. It would also replace three ambulances and fund local training programs to ensure residents continue to receive the highest level of EMS care possible.

The fire authority is asking voters to return the EMS levy from $0.28 to $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed property value. The lid lift would cost an additional $99 per year or $8.25 per month for the owner of a $450,000 home.

More information about the EMS levy lid lift can be found at [www.northcountyfireems.com](http://www.northcountyfireems.com).

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*North County Regional Fire Authority, known as North County Fire & EMS, provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 46,000 people over 120 square miles, including the cities of Stanwood and Arlington. Emergency personnel respond to an average of 10,000 calls per year – of which 86 percent are for EMS. North County Fire & EMS operates under a balanced budget, is debt-free, and has passed all independent audits by the state.*