



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North County Fire & EMS Holds Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11
Community Open House to Follow

Stanwood, Wash. – September 11, 2001 lives on in the minds of all Americans. Like Pearl Harbor, the day was one of tragedy, but also that of great courage. North County Fire & EMS wants to honor the men and women who gave their lives to help others, but also celebrate the strength of the American spirit by inviting community members to an Open House.

“How better to honor those who lost their lives than by having a day where we have a celebration of people who serve in emergency services,” said Fire Chief John Cermak. “It’s a celebration of our country, the spirit of the American people, and our collective hope for a better future.”

At dawn on September 11, Fire Authority crews will line Highway 532 with 343 American flags to represent the firefighters who lost their lives in the World Trade Center towers. At 10:00 a.m., apparatus will do a slow procession east along Highway 532 before returning to the main station (8117 267th Street NW, Stanwood) for the memorial ceremony.

The Stanwood High School band and drum section will provide music for the ceremony, and the American Legion will present the flag to officials. There will be three speakers for the event from the Fire Authority, the Snohomish County Sheriff’s office, and the Navy.

The Fire Authority will host an Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. after the memorial service. The community is encouraged to bring family members for a day of celebration and thanks.

The Fire Authority will provide a lunch of hot dogs and refreshments. Station and apparatus tours are available on the day, and Sparky the Fire Dog also plans to make an appearance to teach community members about fire prevention. There also is a Bouncy Castle for children to wear out some of that energy for our parents!

“We want to say thank you,” said Chief Cermak. “We could not save lives and property without the support of our community, and we are grateful.”

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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.