



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EMS levy renewal on Nov. 3 ballot for North County Fire/EMS**

(Stanwood, Wash.) - North County Regional Fire Authority, known as "North County Fire/EMS," is asking voters to renew the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.

The levy continues funding for the EMS program at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and will expire if not renewed by voters. The cost to the average homeowner would be approximately \$8.33 per month or \$100 per year for a 24-hour Paramedic response. The funding pays for Basic and Advanced Life Support services, personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, equipment, and supplies.

Medical emergencies accounted for more than 80 percent of all calls received by North County Fire/EMS in the first quarter of 2015. In 2014, personnel responded to 3,826 emergency calls, of which 2,857 (74.6 percent) were related to emergency medical needs.

North County Fire/EMS is also asking voters to remove the levy expiration date. This would stabilize funding for the emergency service the community uses most. It also would save money on government fees, which can cost up to \$22,500 per election. Fire commissioners feel that money would be better spent on medical equipment and personnel. Voters in 22 of 29 Snohomish County communities have approved this same type of EMS levy for these reasons.

The Snohomish County Elections Department will mail ballots to voters on Thursday, Oct. 15. For more information about the EMS levy renewal, visit [www.northcountyfireems.com/ems\\_levy\\_renewal](http://www.northcountyfireems.com/ems_levy_renewal).

North County Regional Fire Authority, known as "North County Fire/EMS," provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 25,000 people over 107 square miles, including the City of Stanwood. Learn more about North County Fire/EMS by visiting [www.northcountyfireems.com](http://www.northcountyfireems.com) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS](http://www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS).

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