



# FIREWIRE

Newsletter  
Spring/Summer 2015

## NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Serving the communities of Bryant, Freeborn, Warm Beach and the City of Stanwood

### Message from the Chief

It's a pleasure to introduce myself as the new fire chief for our regional fire authority called "North County Fire/EMS." I come to you with 27 years working in emergency services and 25 years training firefighters in professional development. I appreciate the warm welcome extended to my family by the community, and look forward to getting to know more people in the future.

There are two issues I want to talk with you about in my message this month, both of which involve the upcoming August and November elections.

In August, North County Fire/EMS will have a housekeeping item on your Primary Election ballot. This ballot measure would amend our plan to allow neighboring fire agencies and cities to annex to our fire authority. This would not affect the taxes you pay.

In November, we are asking voters to renew our levy for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and remove the expiration date. More than 80% of all emergency calls we receive are EMS-related, and that number continues to grow as our population ages. The need for EMS is not going away, and removing the expiration date will stabilize

funding for our most widely used emergency service. It also will save money on election fees, which can cost as much as \$22,500 every time we have to be on the ballot.



**John Cermak**  
FIRE CHIEF

We will have two public hearings on the EMS levy renewal, and hope you will attend. The first is on June 24 and the second is July 8. Both meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. and are held at our Headquarters (Station 99), 8117 267th Street NW, Stanwood, WA 98292. Our Board of Fire Commissioners will vote on a resolution to place the EMS levy renewal on the November ballot at the July 8 meeting.

We cover both of these issues in greater detail in this newsletter. However, please feel free to contact me personally with any questions at (360) 629-2184 or [jcermak@northcountyfireems.com](mailto:jcermak@northcountyfireems.com).

Thank you,

John Cermak  
FIRE CHIEF

### EMS Update

As of April 2015, 80.7% of all emergency calls have been for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). That's a 6% increase from 2014, and more than double the number of calls since voters first passed an EMS levy in 2010 and the fire agency started providing emergency services to the City of Stanwood.

The EMS levy allows North County Fire/EMS to provide Basic and Advanced Life Support using Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, who can perform life-saving procedures. The levy pays for emergency personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

The Board of Fire Commissioners for North County Fire/EMS will likely ask voters to renew the EMS levy at the same amount (50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value) and to remove the expiration date. Voters in 22 other Snohomish County communities have approved this type of EMS levy because it stabilizes funding for the most widely used emergency service. It also saves money on election fees, which would be better spent on life-saving equipment and medical supplies.

The Board will hold two public hearings (outlined in the Fire Chief's message) about the EMS levy renewal. Members of the community are invited to attend and share their thoughts on the EMS levy renewal, or how EMS has touched their lives. Thank you!

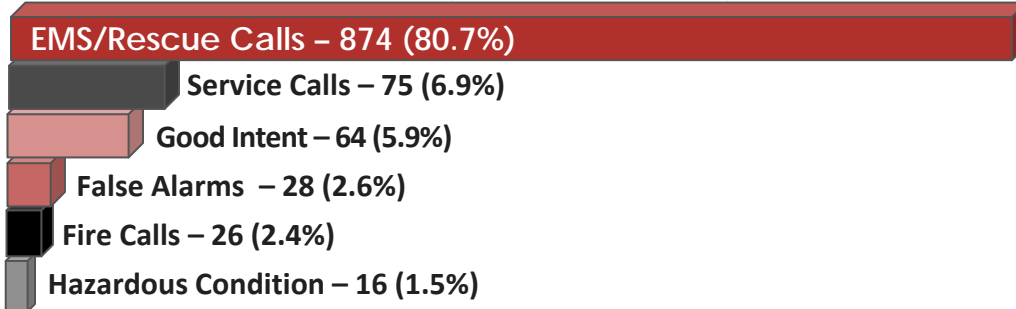


## **NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS**

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Stanwood, WA 98292  
(360) 629-2184  
www.northcountyfireems.com

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## **Calls to Date (As of 4/30/15)**



**TOTAL: 1,083**

## **Improving Communications**

North County Fire/EMS is taking steps to improve communication with its taxpayers. Our updated website is more user-friendly: [www.northcountyfireems.com](http://www.northcountyfireems.com). And, please “Like” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS](http://www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS) to receive regular updates!

## **National Night Out**

Save the date! On August 4 at 6:00 pm, North County Fire/EMS will participate in the National Night Out Against Crime. Please join North County Fire/EMS at the Old Thrifty Foods Parking Lot 27225 90th Ave NW, Stanwood. We’ll have emergency response equipment and fire engines on display, along with the Stanwood Police Department and other agencies and organizations.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer, better place to live.



## **On Your August Ballot**

In August, North County Fire/EMS will place Proposition 1 on the Primary ballot for voter approval. If approved, it would allow neighboring fire agencies or cities to annex into our regional fire authority. This ballot measure has no cost impacts for North County Fire/EMS taxpayers.

Our Regional Fire Authority Plan describes the boundaries of the North County Regional Fire Authority, known as North County Fire/EMS. The amendment would allow those boundaries to be updated, as needed.

North County Fire/EMS continues to explore regionalization of fire and emergency medical services with other agencies in an effort to improve the level of service you receive, improve efficiencies and save money for our taxpayers.