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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another Clean Audit for Lake Stevens Fire

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire passed its independent financial and accountability audits conducted by the Washington State Auditor's office. The audits, which cover financial and operational practices for 2015-2016, came back with no findings. This continues a long history of clean audits for the fire district.

"These audits are an independent check that show we are good stewards of public resources," said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien. "The state auditors are professionals who make sure we're transparent and accountable to our taxpayers."

Having a history of clean audits and strong financial safeguards can help the fire district earn a better rating with Standard and Poor's, Chief O'Brien said. That rating helps lower borrowing costs if the fire district ever needs to finance capital purchases such as building new stations.

State Auditor Pat McCarthy explained the role of these audits in her introduction letter to the fire district, writing, "The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust."

To read the full reports, visit the Lake Stevens Fire website at www.lsfire.org.

"We appreciate the support of our community," said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien. "We will continue to be accountable and transparent for how funding is used to save lives and property."

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Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-trained firefighters/paramedics responded to 6,126 calls in 2017, an 8.35% increase from the prior year. Our fire district is proud to be debt free, operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its financial audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.lsfire.org.