



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

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Serve People, Save Life, Protect Property & Safeguard the Environment

Message from the Chief

Thank you for supporting Lake Stevens Fire. I wanted to start my message with a heartfelt thank you to our veterans and their families in acknowledgement of Veteran's Day. As far as we are concerned, every day should be a day to honor the men and women that serve and sacrifice to protect our freedoms.

Our management team is meeting quarterly to assess the progress we are making on our Strategic Plan. This document is an important part of being transparent and accountable to the community we serve and can be found on our website at www.lsfire.org.

The Strategic Plan outlines what we need to do with regard to emergency personnel, apparatus and facilities to save lives and property. It also addresses revenue requirements to maintain adequate emergency service levels as our community grows.

The plan calls for us to address issues with our Emergency Medical Service program, which accounts for 76% of all calls. We have spent the past several months educating our community about the increasing demand for service (35% higher call volumes in the past six years). In contrast, we are limited to a 1% revenue increase per year.

In November, Lake Stevens Fire is asking voters to consider an EMS levy lid lift of 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to restore funding for the program and maintain services. There is more information in this newsletter and on our website that I hope you will read before returning your ballot.

We recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility and appreciate the support of our Lake Stevens community. We actively look for ways to reduce costs by partnering with other agencies. For example, we currently participate in a Training Consortium with two other fire agencies in Snohomish County. We also share a Community Resource Paramedic with another fire district to better serve both communities.

Our part-time firefighter program is also thriving with 20 participants. This helps save money on personnel costs, and provides us with a qualified pool of candidates from which to hire full-time firefighters when replacements are needed.

If you have questions about these or any issues, I am only a phone call (425.212.3044) or email (kobrien@lsfire.org) away. Your input makes us stronger, and is always welcome.

Take Care & Stay Safe,
Chief Kevin O'Brien



Change Your Clocks, Check Your Batteries, and Practice Your Plan!

Fall has arrived, daylight hours are decreasing, and November is right around the corner. Sunday, November 5th at 2am is the official time in which your clocks will need to "fall back" an hour. Most people will choose to set them back before going to bed. This is also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and practice your home escape plan in case of an emergency. Remember, smoke alarms save lives. We encourage you to test your smoke alarms monthly to be sure they work properly. Typically 9-volt batteries should be changed once per year, while ten-year lithium batteries just need to be tested on a monthly basis to ensure they are working properly. Additionally smoke alarms expire after ten years. Please check the date and replace the alarm if it is older than ten years. Take time to be safe!





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Be Safe & Be Seen!

As daylight hours are decreasing please take time to be safe and be seen. Be bold & bright, both morning & night.

Halloween Festival

Join us for this family friendly event, Tuesday October 31st from 5-8pm downtown LS.

Give your child a safe ride while in the car!

Call today to schedule an appointment for us to check your child's car seat for proper fit and installation.

What's on My Election Ballot?

During the November election, Lake Stevens Fire is asking voters to consider an 18 cent levy lid lift to restore funding for the community's Emergency Medical Service program. If approved by voters, the lid lift would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$54 per year (\$4.50 per month) to maintain EMS service levels.

Over the past year, we have communicated that the demand for emergency services is exceeding the revenue available to provide them. In 2016, Lake Stevens Fire responded to 5,655 calls and 76% were EMS-related. Call volumes have increased 35% in six years alone due to growth and an aging population. More calls mean added costs for medical supplies, equipment, maintenance, personnel, and utilities.

Voters in the Lake Stevens community approved a 50 cent EMS levy in 2000. Over time, the levy rate falls as property values rise to limit the amount of revenue the fire district can receive. Currently, the EMS levy is at 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The fire district can increase revenue by 1% per year, but expenses are higher than that. A levy lid lift is one way a community has to restore funding for the emergency service people rely on most.



More information is available on our website at www.lsfire.org. Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien is also available to answer questions at 425.212.3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org. Thank you for considering our request.