



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

Volume 3 Issue 4 / March 2018

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

Message from the Chief

Lake Stevens Fire has spent a significant amount of time communicating about the challenges to meet the demand for emergency services. Growth in the Lake Stevens area has caused call volumes to increase 31.5 percent in the past five years. Like many fire districts, revenue isn't keeping up with the demand for service or even the cost of inflation.

Fire districts in Washington are allowed to ask voters to approve "lid lifts" for fire and EMS, which returns levy rates to previous amounts. This is an increase, but the levy rates are capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for fire and 50 cents per \$1,000 for EMS.

Last year voters approved an EMS levy lid lift for this life-saving program. This year, Lake Stevens Fire likely will ask the community to lift the lid on its fire levy, which provides a majority of funding. The proposal will be discussed by our Board of Fire Commissioners on April 12 and 24 at 5:30pm at the Headquarters Board Room located at 1825 South Lake Stevens Road in Lake Stevens. We hope that you will take part in these discussions.

The 27-cent lid lift would return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and cost the owner of a \$325,000 home \$7.31 per month (\$87.75 per year). This amount is sufficient to maintain emergency service levels. That means adding an emergency aid unit to respond to higher call volumes and maintain emergency response times.

Long-term, we need to improve emergency services by working with neighboring agencies to be more efficient. Our fire district currently shares a maintenance shop, fire marshal services, training programs, and a Community Resource Paramedic with Snohomish County Fire District 7. We are assessing whether this partnership would improve our emergency response capabilities and be more efficient for our taxpayers in the long run.

It's critical that we are able to meet the demand for fire and EMS, and improve our ability to save lives and property. At the end of the day, that's why we do what we do.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions. I can be reached at 425.212.3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Take Care & Stay Safe,

Chief Kevin O'Brien



Prevent Window Falls This Spring

Enjoy the warmer breeze this spring while keeping your child safe from accidental window falls. Window screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Call us today if you would be interested in free window guards and locks, which are available through a Safe Kids Grant.

Lake Stevens Fire, in partnership with Safe Kids Snohomish County, recommends the following safety tips:

- Keep windows closed and locked when children are around or when windows are not in use.
- Open windows that a child cannot reach.
- Keep children from playing near windows, and move furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls.
- Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it. Remember that windows may be your escape route during an emergency.



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@LakeStevensFire



@LKStevensFire

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.

Pedestrian Safety

Be safe, be seen, and heads up when crossing the street. Take a break from the phones and headphones, please be alert.

We Look Forward to Connecting with You!

We invite you to visit our public Commissioner Meetings. Our regular meeting schedule is generally the first and third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm and located in the HQ Board Room located at 1825 South Lake Stevens Road, Lake Stevens. Meeting minutes are posted on our LSF website for your convenience, as they are approved. Our Commissioner Meeting schedule for the next two months is as follows:

- ◆ 5:30pm Thursday April 12 & 5:30pm Tuesday April 24
- ◆ 5:30pm Thursday May 3 & 5:30pm Thursday May 17

We invite you to come out and see us at the following community events:



Discover Lake Stevens EXPO
 10am –2pm Saturday, April 21
 Cavelero Mid High School, Lake Stevens

Health & Safety Fair
 10am–2pm Saturday, June 9
 Saar's Super Saver Foods Parking Lot, LS

Aquafest / Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast
 6am-Noon Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29
 Downtown Fire Station 81, Lake Stevens



Welcome aboard to our most recent Firefighter / EMT full-time hires: Ross Rumann, Jerem Rhoades, and Robert Seda. We are fortunate to have these dedicated individuals on our team.

Do you have a place to meet outside the house in case of an emergency?

We encourage all families to have a place to meet outside the house, in case of an emergency. Make sure that every family member knows how to get out of every room and where to meet outside. We encourage you to take time to talk about this and then practice it. Remember, every second counts!