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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Questions About the Fire Levy Lid Lift?

Talk to the Fire Chief at the Annual Pancake Breakfast July 28 & 29

LAKE STEVENS, WA –Lake Stevens Fire is holding three public meetings to answer questions community members may have about the Fire Levy lid lift. The fire district is asking voters to return the Fire Levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Meetings will be Saturday, July 14 at 9 a.m. and Wednesday, July 25 at 5:30 p.m. There is also a special brown bag lunch scheduled for Wednesday, August 1 at 12 noon. All meetings will take place at Fire Station 82 located at 9811 Chapel Hill Road in Lake Stevens (98258).

Chief O'Brien says that more information about the lid lift is available on the fire district's website at www.lsfire.org or people can contact him personally. His contact details are kobrien@lsfire.org or (425) 212-3044.

He also will be at the Open House for the fire district July 28 & 29 from 8am to 12 noon at Fire Station 81 located at 12409 - 21st Street NE in Lake Stevens. This is an annual tradition where firefighters will be cooking up pancakes with ham and eggs for the community to enjoy.

"We're providing every possible opportunity for people to ask questions or learn more about what we are proposing," said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien.

Lake Stevens Fire has been working to educate the community about increasing call volumes (31.5% in five years) and its efforts to maintain service levels. Call volumes have put pressure on the agency to respond, and Chief O'Brien says that they want to get ahead of the issue before response times are impacted.

More calls mean added costs for things like medical supplies, fuel, utilities, as well as apparatus and facilities maintenance. In addition to daily operations, revenue from the lid lift will go toward hiring additional emergency personnel to maintain response times.

Emergency services in Washington are funded by two levies; one for Fire and one for EMS. Voters are given the opportunity to restore funding for emergency services to previously approved amounts through "lid lifts." Last year, the Lake Stevens community approved an EMS Levy lid lift; however, the last time voters approved a Fire Levy lid lift was in 2007.

The Fire Levy provides a majority of funding for emergency services, and all revenue is invested back into the community to save lives and property. The proposal will be on the August 7 Primary Election and cost the average homeowner an additional \$7.31 per month.

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

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"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

Fire Commissioners:
Troy Elmore, Paul Gagnon, Jim Steinruck
Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

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Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-trained emergency personnel responded to 6,126 calls in 2017, an 8.33% 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 independent audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.lsfire.org.



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