



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

Volume 3 Issue 5 / July 2018

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

Message from the Chief

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. It's one of the most effective ways we have to share information with our community.

We have spent the past year communicating about the challenges facing Lake Stevens Fire to meet the demand for emergency services. Alarm volumes have increased by more than 31.5% in the last five years. We believe this is due to population growth in the area. Lake Stevens has averaged 3.9% annual growth in population since 2010. Additional staffing is required to maintain emergency response times and service levels for our community.

State law limits our levy increases to 1% per year, which is not keeping up with the demand for service or even inflation. Fire districts are allowed to ask voters to approve "lid lifts" for fire and EMS, which return the levy rates to previously approved amounts. These 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 is asking our community to consider a fire levy lid lift, which provides a majority of funding for emergency services. This lid lift will allow Lake Stevens Fire to hire additional staffing to maintain emergency response times and support daily operations. I encourage you to read the article with specifics about the proposal in this newsletter.

It's about being transparent with the people we serve. Short-term, we want to maintain emergency service levels for our community. Long-term, we are looking at working with neighboring fire districts to be more efficient and improve emergency services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns at 425.212.3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org. And, thank you for considering our request!

Take Care & Stay Safe,
Chief Kevin O'Brien



We Invite You to Join Us...

Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast & Open House
Pancakes hot off the griddle, with ham & eggs on the side!
Saturday & Sunday, July 28-29 from 6am - Noon
Downtown Fire Station 81
12409 - 21st Street NE, Lake Stevens

Fire Levy/Brown Bag Lunch Community Meeting
Bring your lunch & join us for a fire levy presentation.
Wednesday, August 1 at Noon
Fire Station 82 Conference Room
9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens

Guns 'n Hoses Softball Challenge
The ultimate challenge of police vs. fire on the ball field!
Monday, August 20 & Game Time at 6pm
Cavelero Mid High Baseball Field
8220 - 24th Street SE, Lake Stevens





Lake Stevens Fire
1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
425.334.3034
www.lsfire.org

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@LKStevensFire



#lakestevensfire

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.

Water Safety

Learn to swim and wear a lifejacket. Lessons and lifejackets save lives!

Information on the Fire Levy Lid Lift

What's on my election ballot? Lake Stevens Fire is asking the community to return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The fire levy provides a majority of funding for emergency services.

Why is my fire district asking for this? Our community is growing, and alarm volumes have increased by more than 31.5% in the last five years. Additional staffing is required to maintain response times and emergency service levels for our community.

How much will this cost? What will it fund? The fire levy lid lift would cost the owner of a \$325,000 home \$7.31 per month (\$87.75 per year). Funding will be used for daily operations and to hire additional emergency personnel to maintain response times and emergency service levels.

How will this benefit my family? Additional staffing will maintain emergency response times and service levels. We need to be ahead of the curve in planning to address the increase in alarm volumes before it impacts emergency response times. This is necessary to save lives and property; and also to maintain our insurance rating which impacts premiums paid by homeowners and businesses.

Didn't we just vote on a lid lift? Emergency services in Washington are funded by two levies: one for fire and another for emergency medical service. Last year, voters approved an EMS levy lid lift. We are thankful that our community restored funding for the EMS levy in 2017. The fire levy, however, provides a majority of funding for emergency services in our community.

Where can I find more information? Visit our website at www.lsfire.org or contact Chief Kevin O'Brien at 425.212.3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org.



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