

Community Connection



October 10, 2018

Off to a GREAT start with school!

Wishing all of our students and teachers an awesome school year ahead!
Please make safety a priority and consider the following tips:

- Always buckle up, every person, every ride!
- No texting while driving.
- Be alert and be seen, when crossing the street.
- A bike and a helmet always go together!



Lake Stevens Fire Considers Opportunities to Increase Efficiencies Through Partnerships

Lake Stevens Fire recently approved an interlocal agreement regarding the sharing of services with Snohomish County Fire District 7. Lake Stevens Fire currently shares fire marshal services, training programs, and a Community Resource Paramedic with Snohomish County Fire District 7.

Chief Kevin O'Brien commented, "Many fire districts are looking at partnerships to be more efficient and provide better service. It's critical that we are able to meet the demand for fire and EMS as our community grows. We will continue to work with neighboring fire districts to increase efficiencies and improve emergency services."

Next month Lake Stevens Fire plans to meet with Snohomish County Fire District 7 to discuss the possibility of additional partnerships. Periodic Joint Commissioner Meetings will allow both Commission Boards the opportunity to get to know each other and work together on behalf of their communities.

The first Joint Commissioner Meeting was scheduled for 7pm Tuesday, October 2 at the Snohomish County Fire District 7 Station 31 Training Room located at 163 Village Court, Monroe, WA 98272. There is a second Joint Commissioner Meeting scheduled for 5:30pm Thursday, November 15 at the Lake Stevens Fire Conference Center located at 10518 - 18th Street SE, Lake Stevens.

Lake Stevens Fire generally has two Commissioner Meetings per month. These meetings are open to the public and the community is most welcome to attend. The Commissioner Meeting schedule is posted on the Lake Stevens Fire website: www.lsfire.org / **In the Community** and meeting minutes are posted on the website once they have been approved. If you would like to learn more about Snohomish County Fire District 7, please feel free to visit their website at: www.snofire7.org.

Chief Kevin O'Brien commented, "We look forward to a bright future serving our Lake Stevens community and we are grateful for their support."



Remember to Test Smoke Alarms Monthly

Remember, smoke alarms save lives. Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes that do not have working smoke alarms. Test your alarms monthly to be sure they work properly. Typically, 9-volt batteries should be checked once per month and changed once per year, while ten-year lithium batteries just need to be tested on a monthly basis to ensure they are working properly.

It takes less than five minutes to plan your escape, if you haven't already done so. Make sure that every family member knows how to get out of every room and knows where your family meeting place is located outside the home.

Where do you meet outside in case of an emergency?



Everyone Is Encouraged to "Look, Listen and Learn"

Today's home fires burn faster than ever. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use that time wisely takes planning and practice.

Lake Stevens Fire is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) -- the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 90 years -- to promote this year's Fire Prevention campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere™," which works to educate the public about basic but essential ways to quickly and safely escape a home fire.

NFPA statistics show that the number of U.S. home fires has been steadily declining over the past few decades. However, the death rate per 1000 home fires that are reported to fire departments was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980.

"These numbers show that while we've made significant progress in teaching people how to prevent fires from happening, there's still much more work to do in terms of educating the public about how to protect themselves in the event of one," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "This is particularly critical given the increased speed at which today's home fires grow and spread." Carli also notes that although people feel safest in their home, it is also the place people are at greatest risk to fire, with four out of five U.S. fire deaths occurring at home. That over-confidence contributes to a complacency toward home escape planning and practice.

"We need to do a better job of teaching people about the potentially life-saving difference escape planning and practice can make and motivating them to action," commented Assistant Fire Marshal Petersen. This year's *Look Listen and Learn* campaign highlights three steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a fire:

- **Look** for places fire could start.
- **Listen** for the sound of the smoke alarm.
- **Learn** two ways out of every room.

Lake Stevens Fire, in partnership with NFPA, is focusing on home fires, and these fire safety messages apply to virtually anywhere. No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and home escape planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.



Be Safe & Be Seen This Halloween!

Halloween is an exciting time of the year for children, however they can be more susceptible to injury on this evening. We recommend the following tips to help keep children safe:

- Children's costumes should be flame retardant and be easily seen at night.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Choose to use face-paint and makeup; as a mask can restrict a child's vision.
- Children under 10 should always trick-or-treat with an adult.
- Only trick-or-treat in familiar, well lit areas.
- Cross the street at corners or crosswalks and look both ways and listen for cars before crossing.
- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them.
- Have kids use glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

Adults should expect heavy foot traffic the day of Halloween, which lands on a Wednesday this year, as children may be out in the streets trick-or-treating. Drivers are reminded to be extra careful of pedestrians throughout the week of Halloween.

- Be especially alert and slow down in residential neighborhoods.
- Remember that some costumes may limit a child's visibility and they may not be able to see you.
- Remember that children are excited on this night and may move in unpredictable ways.

Take time to be safe and be seen this Halloween!



Connecting with Community Through Events

We so enjoyed connecting with our Lake Stevens community through various events throughout the summer. Health & Safety Fair, Aquafest & Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast, National Night Out, and Guns 'n Hoses Softball Challenge. Thank you for joining us!



Look. Listen. Learn.

Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

- **LOOK** for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.
- **LISTEN** for the sound of the smoke alarm. You may only have minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.
- **LEARN** two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

REMEMBER: Never go back inside a burning building. If there is no safe way out, wait by a window for rescuers. Wave a white cloth or flashlight so they'll see you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Candidate Forum Hosted by Chamber

Meet the candidates on the November ballot, open to all!
6pm Wednesday, October 17th
LSF Conference Center, 10518 - 18th Street SE, LS

Family Safe Halloween Festival

Wednesday, October 31st from 5pm - 8pm
Main Street, Downtown Lake Stevens

Change Your Clocks, Check Your Batteries & Practice Your Plan

Sunday, November 4th at 2am is the official time our clocks "fall back" an hour. It's also a great time to check your smoke alarm batteries & practice your escape plan!

Dickens Fair

Saturday, December 1st from 10am - 4pm
Cavelero Mid High School, 8220 - 24th Street SE, LS

Tips for Firefighters

Saturday, December 8th from 5pm - 9pm
Ixtapa Restaurant, 303 - 91st Avenue NE, LS

Coffee with the Chiefs

The next Coffee with the Chiefs is scheduled for 10-11am Tuesday, October 23 at the Lake Stevens Buzz Inn. Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien and Police Chief John Dyer look forward to connecting with the people they serve. We hope you can join us!



Lake Stevens Fire

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