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February 14, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lake Stevens Fire: Public Meeting to Discuss Potential Merger  
with Snohomish County Fire District 7**

LAKE STEVENS, WA –Lake Stevens Fire is holding a meeting for community members to learn more about a potential merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7. The purpose of the merger would be to improve emergency services for both communities and provide long-term efficiencies for taxpayers.

“Many fire districts are regionalizing to improve service,” said Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien. “Both Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 are strong financially and operationally. The time is right to have this conversation.”

The meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at the Lake Stevens Fire Conference Center, 10518 - 18th Street SE in Lake Stevens. Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien and Chief Gary Meek of Snohomish County Fire District 7 will be available to answer questions from the public after a brief presentation.

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 already share fire marshal services, training programs, and a community resource paramedic. This year, the agencies are working towards integrating their management and administrative teams.

Voter approval to finalize a merger would enable better deployment of personnel to provide an improved emergency response for both communities. The combined financial strength of both agencies also improves the ability to fund capital needs, such as apparatus, equipment and stations.

Both districts would still have local stations, professional firefighters and strong involvement in community events like Aquafest in Lake Stevens and the Mill Creek Days Festival.

Voters in both districts have approved a combined levy rate of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to fund emergency services. This is \$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for emergency medical service. These levy rates would continue for taxpayers in both districts if a merger were approved by voters.

Fire commissioners may consider putting the merger on the ballot during the August 6, 2019 Primary Election. At this point, Lake Stevens Fire simply wants to hear from the public about the idea during this meeting. Interested parties unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to contact Chief Kevin O’Brien at (425) 212-3044 or [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org).

“Better service at the same levy rate is something we need to explore,” said Chief O’Brien. “We hope community members will attend the meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> and learn more.”

**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](http://www.lsfire.org).*



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