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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Hearing Planned for Possible Merger
Community Invited and Encouraged to Attend

LAKE STEVENS, WA – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Lake Stevens Fire has scheduled a public hearing to consider a resolution on a potential merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7. If approved, voters could see the proposal on their election ballots later this year.

The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Conference Center, 10518 – 18th Street SE, Lake Stevens. The community is invited to attend, learn more and ask questions.

Many fire districts have merged, or are looking at merging as a way to improve emergency services and be more efficient. Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 share fire marshal services, training programs, and a community resource paramedic. They are working towards integrating management and administrative teams to reduce those costs, as well.

Operating as one agency would allow better deployment of personnel to improve the emergency response for both fire districts. The combined financial strength of the districts also would improve their ability to fund capital needs, such as apparatus, equipment, and stations.

Both fire districts would continue to have local stations, professional firefighters and elected representation on a Board of Fire Commissioners.

Voters in Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have previously approved a combined levy rate of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to fund emergency services. (\$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for emergency medical service.) These levy rates cannot exceed \$2 per \$1,000 by state law if a merger were approved by voters.

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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.

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

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"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

Fire Commissioners:
Troy Elmore, Paul Gagnon, Jim Steinruck
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