

Contact: Chief Kevin O'Brien  
Phone: Office (425) 212-3044 Cell (425) 249-6984  
Email: [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org)

May 17, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Fire Chief Available to Present on Merger**  
*Proposal Goes Before Voters During August 6 Primary Election*

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire is reaching out to community service organizations, homeowner associations and other groups to see if they would like to learn more about a planned merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7. The proposal will be on the August 6 Primary Election Ballot.

Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien is looking for opportunities to share information about the proposal through a brief presentation. Additional information about the merger can be found on the fire district's website at [www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org).

"Merging will improve emergency services and increase efficiencies for our taxpayers," said Chief O'Brien. "We want to make sure that our community has all their questions answered before the election."

Community groups are encouraged to contact Chief O'Brien's office to schedule a presentation at (425) 212-3044. Individuals with questions also can email him at [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org).

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have discussed a potential merger over the past three years. The agencies currently share fire marshal services, training programs, a medical services officer, and a community resource paramedic. This year, they have been working towards integrating management and administrative teams.

Many fire districts have merged, or are looking at merging as a way to improve emergency services and be more efficient. 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.

The levy rate for taxpayers in both jurisdictions will not exceed the previously voter-approved rate of \$2 (\$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for emergency medical service.) By state law, these levy rates cannot exceed \$2 per \$1,000 if the merger is approved.

The combined district would still have local stations, professional firefighters and elected representation on a Board of Fire Commissioners. Lake Stevens Fire is planning additional public meetings to answer questions about the merger closer to the election.

###

*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).*

**LAKE STEVENS**  
**FIRE**

Phone: 425.334.3034  
Fax: 425.334.6981  
[www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org)

*"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