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July 8, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Lake Stevens Fire Holds Public Meeting to Answer Questions on Merger**

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire invites community members to an upcoming public meeting to ask questions about a potential merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7. The proposal will be on the ballot of Lake Stevens Fire voters during the August Primary Election. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15 at the Lake Stevens Fire Conference Center (10518 – 18<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258).

“A merger would improve emergency services and be more cost-effective for taxpayers,” said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien. “We want to make sure that we leave no stone unturned in responding to questions from the community.”

Lake Stevens residents who have questions, but are unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to contact Chief O'Brien directly. He can be reached at 425.212.3044 or email [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org).

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have discussed merging for the past two 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 their management and administrative teams.

The merger would provide additional personnel and more responders who are trained in advanced emergency services. This means there would be more personnel with skills to respond to fires, EMS calls, water and technical rescues, wildland fires, motor vehicle accidents, and hazardous material emergencies. Essentially, we will have a larger response force ready to help the community of Lake Stevens in a time of need.

Operating as one agency is more cost-effective for taxpayers in the long-term, as well. Voters in both Lake Stevens and Fire District 7 have approved a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. A merger would continue this fire levy rate, and reduce overhead costs by eliminating duplication of services for administrative functions. It also allows for more efficient planning of high cost capital items, such as fire stations, fire engines, ambulances, and equipment.

“Lake Stevens Fire has seen call volumes increase by 28 percent since 2013,” said Chief O'Brien. “We need to find ways to be more efficient in how we deliver emergency services, and believe this is the way forward.”

More information about the merger can be found on the fire district's website at [www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org).

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**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

Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-trained personnel respond to an average of 6,000 emergency calls each 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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