



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

Volume 3 Issue 7 / July 2019

Serve People, Save Life, Protect Property & Safeguard the Environment

Message from the Chief

We're expecting a warm one this summer. This is great when you live in a community with a big lake, but any body of water means the possibility of swimming and boating accidents to those of us in emergency services.

We are fortunate to have several firefighters who are cross-trained in water rescue. However, it's that time of year when we wish we had more.

Lake Stevens Fire has discussed what would be the most cost-effective way to fortify and improve our emergency response for our community as it grows. Call volumes have increased 28 percent since 2013. That's why we are proposing to merge with Snohomish County Fire District 7.

At the most basic level, it provides us with additional firefighters, EMTs and paramedics. We could station emergency personnel based on where most of the calls come in as opposed to service area boundaries.

It also means we have access to more personnel with special skills to serve our community. Lake Stevens Fire currently has 8 qualified rescue swimmers. Under the merger, we would have 34. These numbers also would increase for technical rescues (such as ropes and confined spaces), EMS, hazardous materials, and wildland firefighting.

Merging also makes sense from a financial perspective. Property owners would see emergency services improve, and still pay the same combined levy rate of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Voters in both fire districts approved this amount for fire and EMS and it cannot increase by state law.

Long-term, costs are reduced by eliminating duplication of services for administration, IT departments, training, a fire marshal, and fire prevention. It also allows for more efficient planning of high cost capital items, such as fire stations, fire engines, ambulances, and equipment.

Many fire districts have merged, or are looking at merging as a way to improve emergency services and manage costs. Our proposal is on your August 6 Primary Election ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day to be counted.

More information can be found on our website at www.lsfire.org. You can also contact me if you have any questions at (425) 212-3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org. Thank you for considering our request. And please, wear a life jacket!

Take Care & Stay Safe,
Chief Kevin O'Brien



We Invite You to Join Us!

Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast

6am—Noon July 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday
Serving up pancakes hot off the griddle!
Downtown Fire Station 81
12409—21st Street NE, Lake Stevens

National Night Out

6—8pm Tuesday, August 6
Free ice cream at the Lake Stevens Trestle Station!
To schedule a visit from LSF & LSPD, call 425.622.9401.





Lake Stevens Fire
1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
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www.lsfire.org

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Knox HomeBox

A high security key box that allows quick access to your home during emergencies. Call 425-334-3034 for more details.

Water Safety

Take time to learn how to swim and please wear a lifejacket. Lessons and lifejackets save lives!

What's on My Ballot?

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 are asking voters to approve a merger. The demand for emergency services continues to increase as our population grows and ages. Many fire districts are merging to provide better service and be more efficient.

Do the fire districts currently partner on any programs? Yes, we currently share fire marshal services, training programs, a medical services officer, and a community resource paramedic. This year, the fire districts have been working towards integrating their management and administrative teams.

How would this improve emergency services? A merger would enable better deployment of personnel, apparatus and equipment to provide an improved emergency response. There also would be additional personnel with advanced training and skills for more complex emergencies.

How much will this cost property owners? Voters in both fire districts 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 the previously approved amounts under the merger.

How would this be more efficient for taxpayers? First, there would be more personnel to respond to emergencies. Second, the combined financial strength of both agencies improves the ability to fund capital needs, such as apparatus, equipment and stations. Third, operating as one agency would reduce costs by eliminating duplication of services for administration, IT departments, training, fire marshal, and fire prevention.

Will we still have local stations and fire prevention education in our schools? Yes, the combined district would still have local stations and extensive community involvement, including Aquafest.

Do our Firefighters and Paramedics support this proposal? Yes, Firefighters and Paramedics from both fire districts are supporting this merger. We are stronger working together.

