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www.lsfire.org
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Questions about the Lake Stevens Fire merger with Snohomish County Fire District 7?



We've got answers.



What's on my ballot?

Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 are proposing to join together and “merge” to improve emergency services and increase efficiencies for taxpayers.

Why a merger?

The demand for emergency services continues to increase in Snohomish County as our population grows and ages. Many fire districts have merged to improve emergency services and be more efficient for taxpayers.

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, we have been working towards integrating our 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 to respond who have advanced training and skills for more complex emergencies.

Do our Firefighters and Paramedics support this proposal?

Yes, Firefighters and Paramedics from both agencies are supporting this merger.

How would this be more efficient for taxpayers?

The combined financial strength of both agencies improves our ability to fund capital needs, such as apparatus, equipment and stations. Working together as one agency would lead to streamlining services and reducing duplication.

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.

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.

Where can I find more information?

More information can be found on our website at www.lsfire.org. Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien also is available to answer questions at (425) 212-3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org.