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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners to hold meetings on EMS levy renewal

Public encouraged to attend and comment

(Stanwood, Wash.) – The Board of Fire Commissioners for North County Fire/EMS, also known as the North County Regional Fire Authority, will hold two public hearings to discuss renewing a levy for emergency medical service (EMS). In the first quarter of 2015, more than 80% of calls received by the fire authority were for medical emergencies.

The meetings will be held June 24 and July 8 at 4:00 p.m. at Headquarters (Station 99), 8117-267th Street NW, Stanwood, WA 98292. At the July 8 meeting, fire commissioners will vote on a resolution to place the EMS levy renewal on the November General Election ballot this year.

The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal. Those unable to attend the meetings are encouraged to send their comments to Chief John Cermak at Headquarters or email them to jcermak@northcountyfireems.com.

If approved by voters, the EMS levy rate would stay the same at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would continue to pay \$100 per year or approximately \$8.33 per month for a 24-hour Paramedic response.

The EMS levy allows North County Fire/EMS to provide Basic and Advanced Life Support using Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, who can perform life-saving procedures. The levy pays for emergency personnel, their training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

North County Fire/EMS is asking for a permanent EMS levy, like 22 of 29 other fire agencies have in Snohomish County. This would stabilize funding for the most widely used emergency service, and save money on future election costs. Ballot measures can cost taxpayers in the fire authority as much as \$22,500 per election, which would be better used to purchase life-saving equipment or fund emergency personnel.

North County Regional Fire Authority, known as “North County Fire/EMS,” provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 25,000 people over 107 square miles, including the City of Stanwood. Learn more about North County Fire/EMS by visiting www.northcountyfireems.com or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS.

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