



Serving the Communities of Bryant, Freeborn, Warm Beach, and the City of Stanwood.

(360) 629-2184
Fax: (360) 652-3166
8117 267th St. NW
Stanwood, WA 98292
www.NorthCountyFireEms.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 24, 2015
Contact: John Cermak, Fire Chief
Office (360) 629-2184 Cell (425) 789-8036
jcermak@northcountyfireems.com

EMS calls on the rise for North County Fire/EMS

Fire chief available to speak about program

(Stanwood, Wash.) – North County Fire/EMS, also known as the North County Regional Fire Authority, is seeing a hefty increase in 911 calls. Call volumes have jumped seven percent compared to the same time last year, and 73.3% of those calls have been for medical emergencies.

“No doubt about it, EMS is our most widely used service,” said Fire Chief John Cermak. “Our taxpayers chose to fund the best possible EMS program for saving lives.”

North County Fire/EMS provides the leading type of emergency medical service (called “Advanced Life Support”) using Firefighter/Paramedics, who can perform life-saving procedures. Voters in the fire authority supported funding for the program in 2010, and the Board of Fire Commissioners approved a resolution asking voters to renew the EMS levy on the November General Election ballot this fall.

The EMS levy renewal would continue funding at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay \$100 per year (approximately \$8.33 per month) for a 24-hour Paramedic response. This funding pays for Firefighter/EMTs, Paramedics, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

The ballot measure also would remove the expiration date associated with the EMS levy. Voters in 22 of 29 other communities in Snohomish County have approved this type of EMS levy because it stabilizes funding for EMS. It also saves money on election fees, which can cost as much as \$22,500 every time North County Fire/EMS needs to be on the ballot.

“We would rather use that money to buy medical equipment or fund emergency personnel instead of paying it to the county to print ballots,” said Chief Cermak.

Chief Cermak is looking for opportunities to speak to local organizations and service clubs about the fire authority’s EMS program in the months ahead. Interested parties should contact him at (360) 629-2184 or jcermak@northcountyfireems.com.

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.

###