



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

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 8, 2015  
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### **Fire officials hosting meetings to answer questions on EMS levy renewal**

(Stanwood, Wash.) - North County Fire/EMS, also known as North County Regional Fire Authority, is asking voters to renew the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. The levy would continue funding at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and will expire if not renewed by voters.

Fire officials are inviting community members to attend a meeting to learn more about the levy and ask questions. The meetings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Warm Beach Station (97) at 19727 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA, 98292.

Monday, Oct. 26 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Kackman Station (90) at 3002 252<sup>nd</sup> St. NE, Arlington, WA, 98223

Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Stanwood Station (99) at 8117 267<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Stanwood, WA, 98292. (This meeting follows the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.)

EMS calls represented more than 80 percent of North County Fire/EMS' total call volume as of the first quarter of 2015. In 2014, fire personnel responded to 3,826 emergency calls, of which 2,857 (74.6 percent) were related to emergency medical needs.

North County Fire/EMS is also asking voters to remove the levy expiration date. This would stabilize funding for the emergency service the community depends on most. It also would save money on fees paid to Snohomish County, which can cost up to \$22,500 per election. That money would be better used for medical equipment and personnel. Voters in 22 of 29 Snohomish County communities have approved this same type of levy for these reasons.

The levy renewal would continue to cost the average homeowner approximately \$8.33 per month or \$100 per year. The funding pays for Basic and Advanced Life Support services, personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, equipment and supplies.

For more information about the EMS levy renewal, visit [www.northcountyfireems.com/ems\\_levy\\_renewal](http://www.northcountyfireems.com/ems_levy_renewal). Fire Chief John Cermak also is available to answer questions at (360) 629-2184 or [jcermak@northcountyfireems.com](mailto:jcermak@northcountyfireems.com).

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*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](http://www.northcountyfireems.com) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS](http://www.facebook.com/NCFireEMS).*