



FIREWIRE

Newsletter
Fall 2019

NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Serving the communities of Bryant, Freeborn, Warm Beach, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians & the City of Stanwood

Message from the Chief



John Cermak
FIRE CHIEF

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. We have streamlined this edition based on your input as we know you are busy.

If you're a registered voter, you will notice that we're on your November General Election ballot. North County Regional Fire Authority is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.36 to \$1.50 of assessed property value. The 14-cent lid lift would last for six years and cost the owner of a \$350,000 home an additional \$49 per year (\$4.08 per month).

Voters approved a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 in 2008. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the Fire Authority to roughly the same amount of revenue per year plus one percent allowed by law. Unfortunately, this is not keeping up with increasing

call volumes (37 percent in five years) or even inflation (3.2 percent in the past year).

Response times have started to increase and we want to stop this trend. Our plan is to hire up to six emergency personnel, purchase supporting apparatus, and provide necessary training. This is outlined in the Strategic Plan we completed earlier this year.

Our Strategic Plan and information about the fire levy lid lift are available on our website at www.northcountyfireems.com, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions. If you have any other questions that we don't cover, please feel to contact me personally at (425) 789-8036 or jcermak@northcountyfireems.com

It's an honor to serve, and we appreciate you considering our request.

Thank you for your continued support,

John Cermak
FIRE CHIEF



Fire Service Explorer Program

The North Snohomish County Fire Explorer Program provides the opportunity for high school and college students to become familiar with career opportunities available in the fire service and related fields.

Through classroom instruction, hands-on training, and volunteer work, Explorers are provided a base of knowledge and experiences that will benefit them not only in fire service careers, but also in all future endeavors.

The program is designed to encourage teamwork, cooperation, effective communication, the development of leadership skills, and to provide knowledge of fire protection and safety.

- The Fire Explorer Program is managed by two (2) Lieutenants at North County Fire/EMS, and other fire service personnel as needed.
- The Fire Explorer Program is organized to operate in an environment that promotes maximum internal management. Explorers are offered the opportunity to advance to leadership positions where they will be allowed to develop interpersonal effectiveness and management skills.
- Candidates must be between the ages of 14 and 21 years old, and must have competitive social, physical, and academic skills.
- Candidates must possess the potential to be hired by a fire department or an organization similar to the fire department in function.
- Meetings consist of classroom instruction and practical applications allowing exposure to fire and rescue equipment and techniques.
- Meetings are held a minimum of three times a month.





NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

8117 267th Street NW

Stanwood, WA 98292

(360) 629-2184

www.northcountyfireems.com

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Flu Season is Coming

An estimated 79,000 Americans (186 of those being pediatric deaths) died of the flu and its complications during the 2017-2018 flu season, which is more deaths than any previous flu season has incurred in over 40 years, according to the CDC. Normally, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12,000 to 56,000 per season. In the United States, flu season occurs in the fall and winter, with the peak flu activity time occurring between December and February. Preliminary flu related deaths for the 2018-2019 flu season may not be as severe, however it has set a record of its own. According to the CDC, it was the longest lasting season in a decade, lasting for 21 weeks.

Even if a particular flu vaccine is not considered to be very effective, for the 2019-2020 flu season individuals ages 6 and up are still highly recommended to get vaccinated. According to the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), some years the vaccine and viruses may not be an exact match. But, we do know from past influenza studies that the vaccine can still provide enough protection to make symptoms milder or prevent

flu-related complications or death.

For more information on where you can get flu shots, you can call the Snohomish Health Districts Family Health Hotline at 800-322-2588, call your healthcare provider or check the national Flu Vaccine Finder at <https://vaccinefinder.org>, or visit your local pharmacy.

the burden of flu disease 2017 - 2018

The estimated number of flu **illnesses** during the 2017-2018 season:

49 million

More than the combined populations of Texas and Florida



The estimated number of flu **hospitalizations** during the 2017-2018 season:

960,000

More than the number of staffed hospital beds in the U.S.



The estimated number of flu **deaths** during the 2017-2018 season:

79,000

More than the average number of people who attend the Super Bowl each year



DATA: Influenza Division program impact report 2017-2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/index.html>



get vaccinated
www.cdc.gov/flu