



North County Regional Fire Authority

Serving our Communities with Compassion

Professionalism • Integrity • Pride • Innovation • Ownership

Message from Chief Cermak

Our levy for emergency medical service (EMS) is up for renewal on the August 1, 2023 primary election ballot. EMS accounts for 86% of all emergency calls for North County Fire & EMS. This is the most used emergency service that we provide.

Our community funds EMS through a levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. North County Fire & EMS provides both Basic Life Support (BLS) with trained emergency medical technicians and Advanced Life Support (ALS) with highly-skilled paramedics. ALS is the highest level of pre-hospital care and your support makes this possible.

The EMS levy renewal will provide full-time staffing at Station 96 in Freeborn. It also will fund six firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics per shift. This will provide an additional transport unit. Let's talk about why that's important...

Currently, an ambulance can be out of service for up to four hours while transporting a patient to an area hospital. This can lead to longer response times for EMS calls that happen during that time. One more transport unit will increase capacity district-wide. The levy also will replace three ambulances and fund local training programs to keep our skills the best they can be.

The EMS levy renewal would cost the owner of a \$450,000 home (considered an average for our area) an additional \$8.22 per month/ \$98.64 per year for a 24-hour response with EMTs and Paramedics.

One resident described the EMS levy as an insurance policy in case of a major medical emergency. That comment really resonated with me and I wanted to share it here. Thank you for considering our request. As always, I welcome your questions at jccermak@northcountyfireems.com or 360-629-2184.

Working Together – Still Local, Still Yours

It's been over two years since city of Arlington voters approved annexing its fire department to North County Regional Fire Authority (also known as North County Fire & EMS). Annexation took place on August 1, 2021.

Since then, some things have changed. Most remain the same. The same firefighters, EMTs and paramedics still provide the same emergency response to the same residents. All apparatus now carries the same name – North County Fire & EMS, though if you see engines out and about, you'll notice they still support their local teams on the tailboard – go Eagles and Spartans!



Fire Stations, Part of Our Community

Fire stations that were built and paid for with taxpayer's dollars, still remain investments owned by the taxpayers and serving local residents.



One change that you will see coming soon is to the board. When the City of Arlington annexed into North County Fire & EMS, three of the city council members were appointed to serve on the Board of Fire Commissioners. Those terms will end on December 31, 2023. Elections will be held in November 2023 for two districted positions covering Arlington, one other districted position, and two at-large positions. Any resident of the fire authority can run for the at-large positions. Districted positions are open to residents of each district.

We are thankful for the continued support of our community. We're a part of the community, and that will never change.

Hands-Only CPR Classes Offered Monthly

Did you know that cardiac arrest victims that receive bystander CPR are twice as likely to survive? Unfortunately, only 40% receive this life-saving skill.



North County Firefighters and Paramedics are working to change that this summer by teaching Hands-Only CPR at events around the community. Studies by the American Heart Association (AHA) have revealed several reasons why citizens are often hesitant to start CPR- but the biggest reason given is a fear of performing CPR incorrectly.

To combat this, the AHA is now recommending "Hands-Only CPR", a simplified, but just as effective form of CPR which involves providing chest compressions to a cardiac arrest victim without

rescue breathing. We now know that in the vast majority of cardiac arrest cases, Hands-Only CPR works just as well as conventional CPR with rescue breathing - and we're on a mission to let the community know.

Remember, 75% of cardiac arrests occur in the home - so learning Hands-Only CPR could save the life of a relative or loved one.

If you weren't able to join us at one of our events this summer, we are proud to offer our ACT CPR classes on a monthly basis out of our Stanwood and Smokey Point Fire Stations. For more information, visit us on the web at www.northcountyfireems.com.



Burn Ban Restrictions

On June 9th due to high fire danger and hot and dry weather a ban on outdoor burning, except recreational fires, was put into effect until such time as there is a substantial amount of rain and the fire risk returns to low. All NCRFA Residential Burn permits have been suspended. You may apply online at the NCRFA website and are free of charge. but they will not be issued until the burn ban is lifted. Refer to the NCRFA website for up-to-date information.

Recreational Fires are allowed without a permit. They must measure less than three feet in diameter and two feet high used for cooking and pleasure utilizing charcoal briquets or seasoned firewood only. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Recreational fires shall be monitored at all times and must have a water source readily available; at a minimum, a charged water hose or a five-gallon bucket of water. Any fires that are found to impact the neighbors around you are subject to extinguishment without notice.



NO
Trash Burning!

Snohomish County is experiencing population growth and the NCRFA jurisdiction is 52% rural. As the population grows our community will see the effects. As more people move into the areas in the wildland-urban interface the risk of wildfire has become the dominant type of fire that can cause catastrophic multiple-death fires and economic loss.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency promotes alternatives to burning because of the fine particles and toxic chemicals in smoke that is unhealthy to you and your neighbors. Chipping, composting, and yard waste pick up and drop off are suggested as alternatives. NCRFA policies align with the Clean Air Act and we follow their rules and air quality burn bans. We also align with the Snohomish County Fire Marshal for fire safety burn bans.

Reflective Address Signs

We recommend having a blue reflective address sign at your residence to make it easier to find your home in case of an emergency. If you would like to purchase an address sign, please call 360-629-2184.

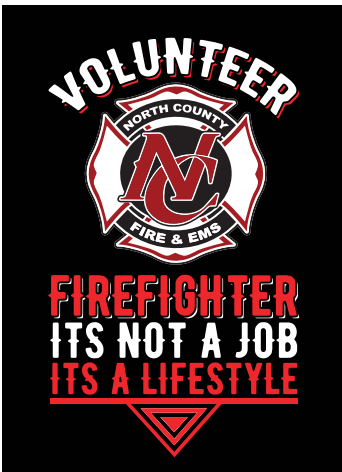
Suggested Donation of \$12.





North County Regional Fire Authority
8117 267th St NW
Stanwood, WA 98292
Phone: 360-629-2184

GRANDVIEW FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED



Are you interested becoming a volunteer firefighter?

Following several meetings in the Grandview community (East of Highway 9 at the Bryant Store) earlier this year we are reaching out to residents who live Northeast of 284th Street NE (sharp curve on the Grandview Road) to assess their interest in volunteering for North County Regional Fire. The level of commitment will vary depending on the response from the community. We will propose a program based on the individuals and the amount of time they can commit. A fully credentialed volunteer Firefighter/EMT requires approximately 400 hours of initial training. Another option is a Fire Brigade that could respond to fires and work to mitigate the situation in a defensive position.

This component would have no EMS training and only work to contain a fire until our crews arrive. This is our second request, we have had volunteers respond, but not enough to start the program. As more requests come in we will evaluate the best option to move forward.

Please email a Letter of Interest to Deputy Chief Dave Kraski at dkraski@northcountyfireems.com.

Proudly serving the cities of Stanwood and Arlington, and the communities of Bryant, Freeborn, Warm Beach, Kackman, Kayak Point, and the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

