



2024 Emergency Medical Services Levy Renewal Information

At their April 22, 2024 regular meeting, North Kitsap Fire & Rescue's Board of Fire Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to put **renewal of the district's existing emergency medical services (EMS) levy on the August 6 primary election ballot.**

- Unless voters choose to make the levy permanent, fire departments must ask for renewal on a regular basis.
- If not renewed, the EMS levy will expire at the end of 2025.
- This is a continuation of the same levy that voters have approved for over forty years.
- Ballots will be mailed out by Kitsap County in mid-July and must be postmarked or put into a ballot drop-box by 8 p.m. on election day.

Approval of the measure continues vital funding for emergency medical services at the previously-approved rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation.

- The current rate is \$0.373962/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, and approval of the August measure will restore the rate to \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed valuation, beginning in 2025.
 - For a median home in unincorporated North Kitsap (with an assessed valuation of about \$600,000), that's about \$75 more in 2025. The impact to individual property owners will vary based on increase or decrease of the individual property's assessed valuation.
 - Property owners and community members are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Rick LaGrandeur (360-860-8101 or lagrandeur@nkfr.org) for more information.
 - Some senior and disabled property owners may be eligible for property tax exemptions. For more information, contact the [Kitsap County Assessor's Office](#).
- The rate is capped at \$0.50 and cannot go higher under state law. As the total assessed valuation of properties in the fire district increases, property tax rates are adjusted downward to remain within caps established by state law and/or ballot measure.
- The EMS levy helps to pay for EMS first response.
 - There is never a bill for first response.
 - Most local fire departments bill health insurance companies to recover some of the additional costs incurred when patients are transported by ambulance.

Emergency medical services are a critical resource efficiently provided by local fire departments and **continued service at current levels requires continued funding.**

- The fire department crews are dual-qualified as firefighters and emergency medical service providers, greatly improving efficiency.
- Most of the fire department's responses – about 2/3 – are for EMS, and the levy provides important funding for first response to these incidents.
- About 20% of the district's funding comes from the EMS levy. Most of the other funding comes from the fire levy with about 10% from contracts-for-service and ambulance transport billing. The district receives no on-going funding from the county, state or federal government.

NKF&R services the communities of Hansville, Kingston, Miller Bay, Indianola and Suquamish across a 46-square mile area. The district's Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m. in NKF&R's headquarters fire station (26642 Miller Bay Road NE near Kingston) and online. In 2023, the district's expense budget was about \$13 million and crews responded to 3,726 calls for service.

For more information about the EMS levy renewal or the fire district, contact Fire Chief Rick LaGrandeur at (360)860-8101 or via email to lagrandeur@nkfr.org.