



Clallam County Fire District 3

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clallam 3 Fire Commissioners Approve Ballot Measure for November Election *Lid Lift Would Maintain Service Levels*

SEQUIM, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Clallam County Fire District 3 unanimously approved a resolution asking voters to consider a general levy lid lift. The measure will be on the November General Election ballot for voter consideration.

“Revenue isn’t keeping up with increasing call volumes or even inflation,” said Fire Chief Ben Andrews. “We’re bringing this to our community before it impacts service levels.”

Clallam County Fire District 3 has been communicating with the public for the past year about its challenges to maintain emergency service levels. It would have to draw down reserve accounts as soon as next year just to respond to call volumes, which have climbed 33 percent in the past seven years.

The fire district has invited the public to three meetings to learn more about the proposal before the Board of Fire Commissioners voted on the resolution. It also plans another round of public meetings to answer questions when ballots are mailed in October. Chief Andrews also is available to speak with community service organizations and can be reached at (360) 683-4242 or bandrews@ccfd3.org to schedule a presentation.

“We’re making sure that no stone is unturned when it comes to sharing information with our community,” said Chief Ben Andrews. “It’s a fact that costs are increasing to the point where there is nothing for additional staffing, apparatus replacement or facilities maintenance.”

In 2004, voters approved a general fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year plus a one percent increase allowed by law. (It’s important to note that the one percent increase is less than inflation.) The general levy, which provides a majority of fire district funding, has fallen to \$1.26 per \$1,000 since that time.

If approved by voters, the lid lift would be an additional \$5 per month (\$60 per year) for the owner of a home assessed at \$250,000. Funding would be used to maintain service levels, the fire district’s emergency preparedness program, improve staffing where possible, train personnel, and fund apparatus and facility needs.

The general levy rate is capped by law at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The ballot measure would allow the fire district to maintain its revenue stream for six years by either the statutory

one percent or the Consumer Price Index for the region, whichever is greater. However, in no case will the general levy rate be allowed to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. More information about the levy lid lift can be found on the fire district website at www.ccf3.org.

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Since 1914 residents of Clallam County have volunteered their time and financial support to provide emergency services for the greater Sequim community. Today Clallam County Fire District 3 provides a 24-hour fire and emergency medical response to 30,000 people with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time personnel. We respond to an average of 7,300 emergency calls per year, and appreciate the support from our community.