



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Fire Commissioners place EMS levy lid lift on August ballot**  
*Measure seeks to ensure funding for 24/7 emergency medical response*

SNOHOMISH, Wash.— Snohomish County Fire District 4 Board of Fire Commissioners has passed a resolution placing an emergency medical services (EMS) levy lid lift on the August 5, 2025, primary election ballot. The lid lift would fund additional firefighter/paramedics, life-saving EMS training, and essential equipment and supplies.

The district's current EMS levy of \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed property value is no longer keeping pace with increasing demand for emergency services and rising costs.

“EMS now accounts for more than 80% of all calls we receive,” said Fire Chief Don Waller. “As call volumes continue to go up, our community requires additional emergency personnel to maintain response levels and ensure the best possible outcomes when residents dial 911.”

Voters last approved an EMS levy lid lift six years ago. Since then, costs to provide emergency services have surged. Inflation has drastically increased what the district must pay for staff, emergency apparatus, and medical equipment. An ambulance that used to cost just over \$200,000, for example, is now \$400,000.

The Board is asking voters to consider restoring the EMS levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value – the rate previously approved in 2019. The rate dropped to \$0.36 due to state limitations restricting the district's annual revenue growth to just 1%, despite rising property values.

If approved by voters in August, the EMS levy lid lift will allow the district to hire two more firefighter/paramedics. Paramedics are the highest level of first responder care available. This will provide an additional response unit in order to meet rising call volumes and enable faster response times. The revenue will also fund the higher costs for EMS training, medical equipment, and supplies.

The proposed \$0.14 lid lift would cost the owner of a property with an assessed value of \$500,000 an additional \$5.83 per month, or \$70 annually.

Learn more at [www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org), or contact Fire Chief Don Waller at [chief@snohomishfire.org](mailto:chief@snohomishfire.org) or 360-568-2141.

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*Snohomish County Fire District 4 provides fire and life safety services to approximately 32,000 people over 60 square miles. SCFD4 firefighters respond to around 4,300 calls each year – 80% of which are EMS-related. The district operates under a balanced budget and has a history of passing its financial and accountability audits. Find more information at [www.snohomishfire.org](http://www.snohomishfire.org).*