



CENTRAL KITSAP **FIRE & RESCUE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 10, 2020
Contact: Chief John Oliver
joliver@ckfr.org Cell (360) 340-8260 Office (360) 447-3566

Virtual Town Halls Planned to Discuss Station Improvements

Facilities Bond Will Be on the November General Election Ballot

Silverdale, Wash. – Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue is holding four virtual town hall meetings to share information and answer questions about future station improvements. The fire district is asking voters to approve a facilities bond during the November 3 General Election for the health and safety of the central Kitsap community and its firefighters.

The public is welcome to participate in any virtual town hall meeting. However, they have been organized by specific communities to provide information about facilities serving those areas. Meeting access information is available on the fire district website at www.ckfr.org. All virtual town halls will begin at 6:00 p.m.:

Thursday, September 17 – North Perry
Thursday, September 24 – Olympic View
Thursday, October 1 – Seabeck
Thursday, October 8 – Lake Symington

Many of the fire district's stations are 60 years old, and community safety is an issue. None of the Fire District's stations are up to current seismic standards and some could collapse in an earthquake. Some are located in remote areas, which delays emergency response times. Older stations also are too small to shelter modern emergency apparatus, which leaves expensive equipment vulnerable to weather and reduces its lifespan.

Firefighter health and safety is a top concern driving the decision to ask voters for funding. Cancer is a leading cause of firefighter deaths. Stations lack effective diesel exhaust removal systems to reduce firefighter exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens. COVID-19 also has shown deficiencies with station decontamination areas for firefighters returning from medical calls. Other stations lack effective security systems, sprinklers and fire alarms.

The 20-year bond would fund the community's emergency facility needs for the next 60 years. The projected cost would be 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (or no more than \$96 more the owner of a \$300,000 home).

The fire district timed the funding request after two other taxing levies for emergency services will have expired. If the bond is approved, property owners would still pay less in taxes to the fire district than they did in 2019.

More information on the facilities bond proposal can be found on the District's website at www.ckfr.org. Chief John Oliver also is available to respond to questions at joliver@ckfr.org or (360) 447-3566.



CENTRAL KITSAP **FIRE & RESCUE**

###

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue has provided fire and life safety services to residents and businesses since 1942. Today, it is one of the largest emergency service providers in the county, responding to over 8,000 emergency calls per year. CKFR operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all its financial and accountability audits with the State of Washington.