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**ENGAGE WITH "COMMUNITY CONNECT"**

Easy for residents, intuitive for responders. "Community Connect" bridges the information gap before 9-1-1 is called. Learn how you can help with pre-planning so that we can better serve you during an emergency. Sign up at [www.ckfr.org](http://www.ckfr.org)



Spring 2021

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

*By Chief John Oliver*

This may be optimistic, but statistics show that COVID-19 cases are declining. We anticipate these numbers to fall even further as people continue to observe social distancing protocols and are vaccinated.

trained Paramedics and the best medical equipment from the time we arrive on scene and all the way to the hospital.



The pandemic did influence our call volumes for 2020. Emergency personnel responded to 8,827 emergency calls, 64 percent of which were for emergency medical service (EMS). Total calls dipped slightly compared to 2019 as people complied with the mandated "stay at home" orders. However, the percentage of EMS calls held constant due to COVID-19 concerns or responses.

Voters last approved an EMS levy for \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2015, and it will expire at the end of this year. On April 26, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue's Board of Fire Commissioners will consider a resolution to place an EMS levy renewal for the same amount on the August Primary Election ballot. The virtual meeting happens at 4:00 p.m. and access information can be found on our website at [www.ckfr.org](http://www.ckfr.org).

One thing the pandemic has done is highlight the importance of our EMS program. Your support means that we can provide the highest level of care available called "Advanced Life Support" (ALS) using highly-

EMS is the emergency service our community relies on the most. We invite you to take part in the meeting and share your story about how our EMS program has made a difference for you or a loved one. Thank you.



## WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS TOWN HALLS

Spring is the time to prepare your property in case of a wildland fire. Many of the properties in our service area are located in the urban-wildland interface, which makes them vulnerable. That's why Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue is organizing three virtual town hall meetings in May to teach wildland fire preparedness for homeowners.

The town hall meetings will cover a variety of topics including the wildland fire threat in our area, how to create a defensible space

around your home, and steps to take if evacuations are necessary. We also have additional resources for property owners to explore.

Visit our website for more details on the town halls at [www.ckfr.org](http://www.ckfr.org). The last few years have resulted in record property losses due to wildland fires west of the Cascades. Help us reverse that trend by learning more about this important safety precaution.

## EMS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLS AND ALS CARE?

There are two levels of care for Emergency Medical Service programs that fire districts can provide. Most offer Basic Life Support (BLS) with emergency medical technicians who have completed 160 hours in first aid, CPR training, and administering some medications.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) is the highest level of care available. ALS uses paramedics who have completed 1,800 hours of training and education on life-saving procedures such as starting IVs, administering medications, surgical procedures to clear airways, treating injuries related to trauma emergencies and advanced cardiac life support.

EMS accounts for 64 percent of all emergency calls for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue. The Fire District is able to provide both BLS and ALS care to residents because of funding from an EMS levy. It runs one BLS and three ALS transport units 24-hours a day.

The EMS program is funded by a levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value that must be renewed by voters every six years. Funding from the levy is used for ambulances, emergency personnel, training and certifications, medical equipment and supplies.