



CENTRAL KITSAP
FIRE & RESCUE

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IN THIS EDITION:

Message from the Chief

EMS Levy Renewal Information

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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



SIREN

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

By Chief John Oliver



We’ve had several well-attended Town Halls on how to defend your property against a wildland fire. You can find those recordings on our website at www.ckfr.org. But, how do you prepare yourself and family if you were asked to evacuate? That’s where a Wildfire Action Plan comes in handy, and we encourage you to develop one for your household.

Our website has links to excellent information, and can help your family build its own plan. Here’s a snapshot of what you should have ready if evacuation is required:

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer hard drive and disks
- “Plastic” (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

To ensure you receive up to date emergency information, please follow CKFR on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We also encourage signing up for emergency alerts through the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management online at www.kitsapdem.org

Even with careful planning, accidents and injuries can happen. That’s why Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue provides Basic and Advanced Life Support through its Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program. EMS accounted for 64 percent of our calls in 2020, and that number continues to grow as our population ages.

Our EMS program is funded by a voter-approved property tax levy that expires at the end of the year. The Fire District is asking voters to renew it at the same rate voters approved in 2015 (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value) and for the same time period of six years.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about the EMS levy renewal or any other issue on your mind at joliver@ckfr.org. Thank you for considering our request.

EMS LEVY RENEWAL INFORMATION

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue is asking voters to renew its levy for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) during the August 3 Primary Election. The EMS levy would continue the last voter-approved amount of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and last for the same time period of six years.

The EMS levy costs the owner of a \$400,000 home (considered an average for the area) approximately \$200 per year. Funding is used for ambulances, emergency personnel, training and certifications, medical equipment, and supplies.

CKF&R provides residents both Basic and Advanced Life Support (ALS), which is the highest level of EMS care available. ALS uses trained paramedics who have completed 1,800 hours in life-saving procedures, such as starting IVs, surgical procedures to clear airways and stop serious bleeding, and advanced cardiac life support.

In 2020, EMS accounted for 64 percent of all emergency calls. EMS calls alone have increased 24 percent since voters last approved the levy in 2015. More information about the EMS levy can be found on the Fire District's website at www.ckfr.org/ems-levy.



CKFR Water Rescue Responders During Training Drills

BOATING & WATER SAFETY

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for people ages 5 to 24 years. On average more than 700 people die in boating accidents annually in the U.S. These tragedies are predictable and preventable by taking a few precautions:

- Take a boating safety course and earn your boating safety education card. The course covers what to do in event of a water emergency such as the best way to get help by using a VHF-FM radio as the primary means of making distress call. Using a marine VHF radio notifies the US Coast Guard and alerts boaters in the area of your water emergency situation so that the nearest boat can provide assistance. Cell phone calls to 911 should be used only as a secondary option.
- Wear a lifejacket when on a dock, boating, skiing or tubing. Lifejackets add buoyancy and provide added insulation to help protect against hypothermia.
- Limit the number of people in your boat to avoid overloading and the risk of capsizing.
- Know the water and weather conditions.
- "Reach, Throw, Row, Go." Remember this saying if someone falls into or is thrown into the water. Reach for the person with your arm; Throw them a lifejacket or ring buoy with a line attached; Row your boat out to them; and, as a last resort, go in the water after them. Going into the water yourself is the most dangerous as the other person may cause you to drown.