



Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

Serving North Spokane County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire District 4: EMS accounts for 76.5% of all emergency calls *Levy renewal on August Primary Election ballot*

[Chattaroy, Wash.] – Spokane County Fire District 4 reports that calls for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) are keeping the agency hopping. As of the beginning of June, EMS accounted for 76.51% of all emergency calls for the fire district year to date.

“It’s a fact that our EMS program saves lives and provides value for the community,” said Fire Chief Randy Johnson.

Chief Johnson is referring to the fact that the agency is licensed to provide Basic Life Support with firefighters and emergency medical technicians. However, it also provides Advanced Life Support using volunteer or part-time paramedics. Some are full-time employees with other agencies who still find the time to volunteer in the community where they live. This provides the highest level of pre-hospital care possible for local residents and a \$300,000 savings annually for taxpayers. It also has reduced response times by as much as 15 minutes depending on where paramedics respond in the district.

On average, medical emergencies account for 77 percent of all calls for Fire District 4. An EMS levy funds the program, including emergency personnel, training and certifications, a medical response unit, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

The EMS levy is scheduled to expire at the end of the year, and Fire District 4 is asking voters to renew it at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the August 2nd Primary Election. That means the average homeowner would pay approximately \$8.33 per month (\$100 per year) for a 24-hour emergency medical response.

In 2010, the fire district asked voters to renew the EMS levy at 33 cents per \$1,000 because of a difficult economy. Since that time, EMS calls have increased 28 percent as have costs for personnel, medical supplies, equipment, fuel, maintenance, and state fees. Prior to 2010, voters approved an EMS levy at 50 cents per \$1,000 every six years since 1992.

More information about the EMS levy renewal can be found on Fire District 4’s web site at www.scf4.org or on its Facebook page at /SpokaneCoFire4. Fire Chief Randy Johnson also is available to speak with community groups or individuals about the levy renewal. Interested parties may contact him at (509) 467-4500 or randyj@scfd4.org to schedule a presentation.

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Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 emergency calls per year; 77 percent on average are for EMS. Fire District 4 is proud to operate under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state. Find Fire District 4 on Facebook at [/SpokaneCoFire4](#), Twitter ([@SpokaneCoFire4](#)) or visit the web site at www.scf4.org.