



## NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 9, 2020

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### **Questions About the Fire Levy Lid Lift? We Have Answers!**

OAK HARBOR, WASH. — North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is hosting two virtual meetings to answer questions about its fire levy lid lift. The fire district is asking voters to consider a 15-cent fire levy lid lift during the November General Election to fund replacement of two fire engines, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (called “SCBAs”) for firefighters, and emergency radios.

The virtual meetings will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7 a.m. and Monday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. Community members can find meeting access information on the fire district’s website [www.nwfr.org](http://www.nwfr.org).

Call volumes have increased 45 percent for North Whidbey Fire and Rescue in the past 10 years. Replacing apparatus and equipment is a normal part of emergency service operations. The fire district plans to pay cash for these capital items instead of financing these purchases, which would cost taxpayers more in interest payments.

The lid lift would cost the owner of a \$370,000 home (an average for the area) approximately \$4.63 per month (\$55.50 per year). Replacing these items also will maintain the community’s insurance rating, which is linked to the amount some home and business owners pay in premiums. Even with the lid lift, North Whidbey Fire and Rescue would continue to have the lowest fire levy rate in the county.

More information on the lid lift can be found on the fire district’s website. Fire Chief John Clark also welcomes questions at (360) 675-1131 or [chiefclark@nwfr.org](mailto:chiefclark@nwfr.org).

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*North Whidbey Fire and Rescue provides an emergency response to fires, medical calls, water and high angle rescue, and auto accidents. The agency serves 18,000 people over 55 square miles, which includes the unincorporated area west of the City of Oak Harbor from Deception Pass Bridge (to the north) and Libbey Road in Coupeville (to the south). Highly-trained part-time paid and volunteer firefighters respond to an average of 2,400 calls per year.*