



Snohomish County  
**FIRE DISTRICT 7**  
*Earning Trust Through Action*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Snohomish County Fire District 7 Holds Public Meetings on Fire Levy Lid Lift**

Monroe, Wash. – Snohomish County Fire District 7 is hosting a Facebook Live “Coffee with the Chief” event and two public meetings to answer questions about its fire levy lid lift. The measure will be on the November 5 General Election ballot.

“We’re trying to reach as many people as possible to share information and answer questions,” said Fire Chief Gary Meek. “Using social media and our traditional meeting format will increase the number of people we can reach.”

The Facebook Live event will take place on October 14 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Participants can access the meeting at the Fire District’s Facebook Page @SnoCountyFire7, and click on the live feed to watch and comment.

The two public meetings will be October 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Station 71 (8010-180th Street SE, Snohomish, WA 98296), and October 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Station 31 (163 Village Court in Monroe, WA 98272). Light refreshments will be provided.

Fire District 7’s fire levy has fallen from the voter-approved rate of \$1.50 to \$1.36 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If approved by voters, the fire levy would return to \$1.50/\$1,000 for one year. The 14-cent lid lift would cost the owner of a \$450,000 home an additional \$63 or \$5.25 per month for one year.

Revenue from the lid lift will continue the Fire District’s current financial practices of funding both its operational and capital needs through its two levies. By state law, the combined rate for these two levies cannot exceed \$2 per \$1,000 (\$1.50 for fire and 50 cents for EMS) of assessed property value.

Most fire districts require voter-approved bonds for capital needs, such as stations and apparatus, which is an additional tax. Fire District 7’s financial management practices mean that it plans in advance for capital needs without asking voters for bond funding. But fully-funding its operating levies are key to this strategy.

“Through its operating levies, Fire District 7 has been able to save adequate reserves to pay for apparatus, station renovations or new construction,” said Chief Meek. “We’re prepared to maintain service levels if the economy should take a downturn again, like it did 10 years ago.”

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found on Fire District 7's web site at <http://snofire7.org/fire-levy>. Chief Gary Meek also is available to answer questions at [gmeek@snofire7.org](mailto:gmeek@snofire7.org) or (360) 794-7666.

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*Snohomish County Fire District 7 provides fire and life safety services to over 118,500 people over 98.5 square miles in central and east Snohomish County, including the communities of Clearview, Maltby, Mill Creek and Monroe. In 2018 our emergency personnel responded to more than 11,000 emergency calls. Through taxpayer support, Fire District 7 has built the most advanced emergency response systems in Snohomish County with highly-trained personnel, facilities, apparatus, and rescue programs.*

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