



## ENUMCLAW FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Enumclaw Board of Fire Commissioners Consider Levy Lid Lift for August Primary**

*More Personnel Required to Respond to Higher Call Volumes*

ENUMCLAW, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for the Enumclaw Fire Department will meet to consider a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot. Call volumes have jumped almost 40% compared to 10 years ago – 12.6% in the last year alone. Concurrent calls, those that happen at the same time, account for 20% of all emergencies.

“This is a safety issue for our community and its firefighters,” said Fire Chief Randy Fehr. “We require more emergency personnel to keep both a medical aid unit and a fire engine in service 24 hours a day. Currently, we have to take a fire engine out of service when multiple calls come in at the same time.”

The Board of Fire Commissioners will meet on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. All board meetings are open, and the public is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held virtually, and residents may access the meeting through Fire District’s website at [www.enumclawfire.org](http://www.enumclawfire.org).

If approved by voters, funding from the lid lift will hire three additional firefighters, who are also qualified emergency medical technicians. Emergency medical service accounted for 74% of all emergency calls for the Fire District in 2021.

Additional personnel also will reduce the amount of overtime the Fire District pays to firefighters, who work additional shifts to fill vacancies. In 2021, that cost was over \$200,000. Even with a loss of overtime pay, Enumclaw firefighters support this move, and the funding request to go with it.

The Fire District is asking voters to return the fire levy from \$1.36 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The 14-cent lid lift would cost \$5.83 per month (\$70 a year) for the owner of a \$500,000 home. Please note that the assessed value of a property is lower than its market value.

More information on the fire levy lid lift can be found on the Fire District’s website at [www.enumclawfire.org](http://www.enumclawfire.org). Chief Fehr also welcomes your questions at (360) 825-5544 or [rfehr@enumclawfire.org](mailto:rfehr@enumclawfire.org).

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*The Enumclaw Fire Department provides fire and life safety services to 22,500 people over 56 square miles. EFD relies on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel to respond to an average of 2,500 calls a year, 74% of which are for emergency medical service. Firefighters are highly-trained to provide quality emergency services often found in larger communities, such as technical rescue, hazardous material spills, auto extrication, fire prevention and life safety programs.*