



## SKAGIT COUNTY Fire District No. 6



Skagit Co Fire Dist. 6

[www.skagitfire6.com](http://www.skagitfire6.com)

16220 Peterson Road  
Burlington, WA 98233  
(360) 757-2891

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 9, 2023

Contact: Fire Chief Ed Tjeerdsma | 360-757-2891 | [etjeerdsma@skagitfire6.com](mailto:etjeerdsma@skagitfire6.com)

#### **Community invited to learn more about fire levy lid lift**

*Proposition will appear on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot*

BURLINGTON, WASH. — Skagit County Fire District No. 6 invites the community to learn more about the fire levy lid lift that will be on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. The purpose of the lid lift is to improve emergency services.

#### **Learn more at a Q&A session:**

- Monday, October 23, at 6 p.m. at 16220 Peterson Road
- Saturday, October 28, at 10 a.m. at 16220 Peterson Road

Fire Chief Ed Tjeerdsma will deliver a short presentation and answer any questions.

Skagit FD6 reports call volumes and costs to provide emergency services have increased significantly. Call volumes have increased 102 percent since 2016, and as a result, response times are increasing.

On average, Skagit FD6 responds to 1,200 calls per year – of which 67 percent are for emergency medical service (EMS). Costs to provide service are also going up. For example, the cost to outfit a firefighter with a breathing/oxygen tank and protective gear have doubled along with fuel and medical supplies.

The fire levy lid lift would fund:

- Two additional firefighters to reduce response times
- Replace an aging ambulance, breathing/oxygen tanks and protective gear for firefighters
- Renovations to add more sleeping quarters at the fire station to increase 24-hour emergency response coverage

The fire district plans to pay cash for these capital items as opposed to borrowing money which costs taxpayers more in interest payments. These improvements will also maintain or improve the fire district's risk rating, which is connected to what homeowners pay in insurance premiums.

Skagit FD6 is asking voters for a \$0.35 lid lift to return the fire levy rate to \$1.05 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (the same rate voters approved in 2018). The lid lift would cost the owner of a \$400,000 home an additional \$140 per year or \$11.67 per month.



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More information can be found at [www.skagitfire6.com](http://www.skagitfire6.com). Fire Chief Ed Tjeerdsma welcomes your questions at [etjeerdsma@skagitfire6.com](mailto:etjeerdsma@skagitfire6.com) or 360-757-2891.

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*Skagit County Fire District No. 6 serves 6,800 people over 27 square miles, bordering Farm to Market Road to the west, Highway 20 to the south, District Line Road to the east, and Interstate 5 at Bow Hill Road to the north. The fire district relies on part-time and volunteer emergency personnel who respond to an average 1,200 calls per year – a 102 percent increase since 2016. Of total calls, 67 percent are for emergency medical service (EMS). Skagit FD6 operates under a balanced budget and has passed all independent audits by the state.*