



# Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

*Serving North Spokane County*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 23, 2024  
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### **Board of Fire Commissioners passes fire levy lid lift resolution**

*Proposition will appear on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot*

Deer Park, Wash. – The Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The lid lift would fund more emergency personnel to respond to higher call volumes, additional fire engines, and station renovations.

Calls for emergency services have increased 24 percent over the last three years. Emergency personnel responded to a record-high 409 calls in January – the highest for a January month in district history. More calls mean additional costs to provide emergency services, but revenue from the current fire levy is not keeping up.

Costs to deliver emergency services increase by an average of 7.5 percent each year, while the fire district is limited by state law to just a 1 percent revenue increase per year. The 1 percent revenue increase is not adequate to meet the emergency service needs of the community.

If approved by voters, the lid lift will fund:

- Additional fire/EMS personnel to respond to calls
- Replacing a fire engine/ladder used for structural fire suppression
- Replacement of three “urban interface engines” used for both structural and wildfire suppression that can travel through remote areas of the district where travel and road conditions are much harsher
- Remodel of Station 47 (Green Bluff) to accommodate additional personnel and seasonal firefighters during wildland fire season to reduce response times

In addition to improving response times, these projects will increase service capacity districtwide and be paid for with cash instead of borrowing money through a bond, which costs taxpayers more in interest payments.

In 2021, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Since then, the rate has eroded to \$1.16. The fire district is asking voters for a lid lift of \$0.34 to restore the fire levy rate to \$1.50.

Learn more at [www.scf4.org](http://www.scf4.org). Fire Chief Bill Neckels also welcomes your questions at 509-467-4500 or [billn@scfd4.org](mailto:billn@scfd4.org).

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*Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire and life safety services to approximately 40,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. The fire district responds to an average of 4,200 calls each year – of which 72 percent are for emergency medical service (EMS). Call volumes have increased 24 percent in the last three years (2020- 2023). The district’s emergency personnel are highly trained to provide services for fire suppression and prevention, wildland firefighting, EMS and ambulance transport, vehicle accidents and extrication, hazardous material spills, and life safety programs. The district also is a fully qualified fire prevention bureau, providing commercial life safety inspections, construction plan review, public education, wildfire home ignition zone assessments, and fire investigations. Fire District 4 operates under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state.*