

Chief's Corner

By Chief Mike Carnes



East County Fire and Rescue is proud to be your emergency services provider. We serve approximately 10,000 people over 60 square miles in the unincorporated areas of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal.

The Board of Commissioners for East County Fire and Rescue voted unanimously to place a one-year Fire Levy lid lift on the August Primary Election ballot. The Fire Levy lid lift is necessary for East County Fire and Rescue to continue essential levels of service.

Voters will have the chance to restore funding for emergency services by returning the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Voters originally approved a fire levy lid lift in 2008.

Since then, our levy rate has fallen to \$1.16 per \$1,000 of assessed value. (Levy rates fall as property values rise, which limits the fire district to roughly the same amount of funding each year).

If approved by voters, the cost would be an additional 34 cents per \$1,000 (or \$12.75 per month for the owner of a \$450,000 home). Funding will be used to maintain emergency service levels and our current community fire insurance rating. A change in rating may increase home and business owners insurance premiums.

More information about the lid lift can be found on our web site at www.ecfr.us, our FaceBook page or you can contact me personally at (360) 834-4908 or mcarnes@ecfr.us. All communication is welcome (written communication becomes part of the public record).

Wildfire Danger: Protect your Property

The last couple of years have become worrisome when it came to wildland fires impacting homes in our area. By all accounts, this year will be just as challenging. Our fire district is prepared to save lives and property, but there are a few things you can do to help minimize any loss from wildfires.



The Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides excellent information about wildland fire preparedness. Learn more at: www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/wildfire/wildfire-preparedness/emergency-preparedness



International Association of Fire Chiefs (Ready, Set, Go: [www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Readysetgo\(1\).pdf](http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Readysetgo(1).pdf))



Please take a good "LOOK" at your property and see what you can do to create a defensible space around your home.



600 NE 267th Ave.
Camas, WA 98607
360-834-4908
www.ecfr.us

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ECFR Station 91 Open House

We invite you to come out and visit your fire station during East County Fire and Rescue's Open House on Sunday, July 28. The event is from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Fire District's headquarters, 600 NE 267th Avenue in Camas (98607). We look forward to thanking our community for its support during our annual Open House.

Bring the kids and come for a fun day. Kids can spray water alongside a firefighter and play in the bounce house. Meet the Fire Chief and our firefighters, tour the station, learn about the fire trucks and pick up safety information.

Our skilled firefighters will demonstrate ladder and hose evolutions. A vehicle extrication demonstration using the Jaws of Life will also take place.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will have wildfire safety information available, and United Fire & Safety will demonstrate the use of fire extinguishers.



There will be an ice cream sundae bar and popcorn donated by our firefighters. This is an opportunity for you to see your tax dollars at work and have a great day out with the family. Come and join us! And right next door The Port of Camas-Washougal Airport has an Open House too, sponsored by the C/W Aviation Association.