

# FIRE LEVY

The information you need to VOTE on August 1



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## Levy Key Components



### PEOPLE

- Additional Firefighter/EMT's and Firefighter/Paramedics on duty every day
- Improved Community and Firefighter Safety
- 24-hour personnel at Station 10- Banner Road



### IMPACT

- Quality of life knowing your home and family are protected 24/7
- Ensures fast response times for all emergency calls
- Positively impacts property values and insurance rating

### Projected cost\* for a property owner

Assessed Home Value	Current Fire Levy Annual Rate	New Fire Levy Annual Rate	Total Increase per year	Total Increase per month
\$300,000	\$327	\$450	\$123 / yr	\$10.25 / mo
\$400,000	\$436	\$600	\$164 / yr	\$13.67 / mo
\$500,000	\$545	\$750	\$205 / yr	\$17.08 / mo
\$600,000	\$654	\$900	\$246 / yr	\$20.50 / mo

Find your homes assessed value at



<https://psearch.kitsapgov.com/pdetails/Default>

\*Based on 2023 assessed valuations

## SOUTH KITSAP IS GROWING!

**+ 55%**

Call volume increase since 2013

**83**

Fires in 2022, 32 of them having over \$20k in damages

**+ 17%**

Increase in emergency calls from 2020

**+12%**

Population growth since 2013

# SKFR NEWSLETTER



firefighter EMT/Paramedics on the road. Increasing our daily staffing will provide a faster response in your time of need, improve our ability to achieve a positive outcome, and improve the health and safety of our firefighters.

Once our staffing needs have been addressed, SKFR looks to the future of our fire stations. To provide the best response possible, we need to put our resources and personnel in the optimal locations. Analyzing multiple data points such as response time, service use, and location of calls, SKFR is committed to using this information as a tool when deciding where to put our personnel, vehicles, and stations. These are not decisions we take lightly and want to make sure that you know when we move personnel or vehicles, it is done so with service to our community at the forefront.

In short, the future of SKFR begins now. Restoring our levy to the previously approved \$1.50 allows us to begin with the crucial first piece which is adding more firefighters on duty every day. Once we accomplish this, we can shift our focus to our fire stations including where to staff, build, and operate from. In addition to levy revenue, SKFR continues to pursue alternative sources of revenue for these projects such as grant opportunities, but none of this can be accomplished without your support.

## THE FUTURE OF SKFR

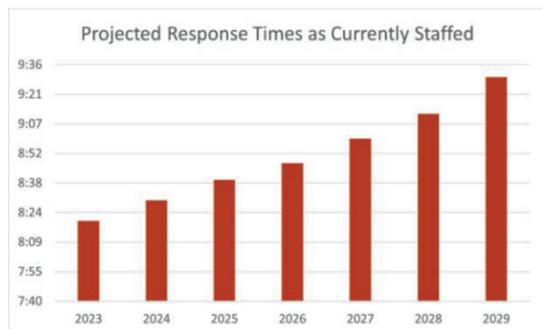
As more and more people discover how amazing the Kitsap Peninsula is, and the community we live in, the need for our services will continue to grow. The last decade saw a 55% increase in our call volume for service and we project this will continue. With that in mind, SKFR is excited to grow with our community and provide excellent service to all our citizens.

The future of SKFR begins with increased daily staffing. SKFR is the largest and busiest of the fire departments in the county. Our historical staffing model no longer applies to the current and future demand for service, and we are committed to putting more

## ACADEMY

SKFR is asking our community for \$0.41 to restore our levy to \$1.50, which was last done in 2017. If approved, SKFR will use these funds to add at least 21 firefighter EMT/Paramedics to our operations staff. Adding these positions will improve response times, provide 24-hour staffing at Station 10, and improve community and firefighter safety. However, the road to accomplish all these goals is long and, if the levy is successful, begins with the fire academy.

Two years ago, SKFR partnered with the five other fire agencies in Kitsap County to form the Kitsap County Fire Training Consortium (KCFTC). The KCFTC is a collaborative venture to deliver consistent and cutting-edge training to all the fire service professionals in the county, while saving about \$6,000 per recruit. To broaden our applicant pool with a goal of recruiting firefighters from our community, SKFR no longer requires EMT or firefighter certifications prior to application. New fire firefighters with SKFR will receive this training over 20 weeks at the KCFTC. SKFR can train 12 new hire firefighters every six months, for a total of 24 in a calendar year. On successful completion, the new firefighter will begin their probationary on-the-job training on one of three operational shifts. After the probationary period ends, the firefighter is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide service to our community.



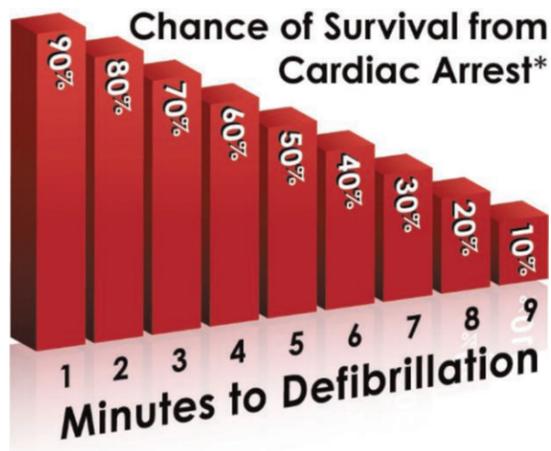
## HITTING THE STREET

SKFR staffs six stations, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a daily minimum staffing of 19. The 21 new firefighters that SKFR would gain through this \$0.41 levy restoration would be used to supplement the daily staffing on each of our three operational shifts. These personnel would join other new hires filling vacancies due to retirement or other attrition, and first be utilized to bolster our response in our high call volume areas served by stations 8, 11, 17, and 31. As these positions come on board, we expect to see our response times begin to improve. Once our response times improve, the process of adding 24-hour staff to Station 10 – Banner can begin.

New SKFR firefighters will be assigned to a team of experienced professionals who will guide them through their probationary year. In addition to continuing the training and education received in the academy, these new firefighters will be out in the community, responding to our friends,

families, and neighbors in their time of need. As an all-hazards agency, there is no type of emergency or event the new firefighters will not respond to, utilizing the skills they have developed.

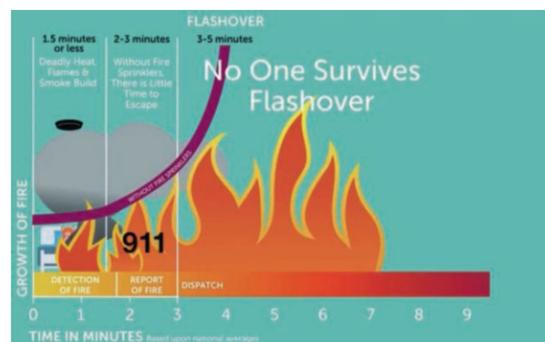
After meeting several performance benchmarks during their probationary year, the new firefighters will then be trained in how to operate our fire engines. This training not only includes how to drive the vehicle, but also how to pump and manage multiple hose lines using field hydraulics. This knowledge rounds out the new firefighter, allows them to fill every non-officer role in the station, and provides the greatest amount of flexibility.



## WHEN YOU DIAL 9-1-1

While many in the community have needed us to respond before, others have not. Regardless of your need for our service, have you ever wondered how what you say on a 9-1-1 call is translated in a response of people and equipment? Well, wonder no more!

The first step for your 9-1-1 call will be captured by Kitsap 911 but may vary based on geographic location and which cell tower is hit when using a mobile phone. A call taker will listen to a brief description of your emergency and then route you to the appropriate dispatcher. At this point, your emergency is classified into an event type, each with its own response plan, and first responders are dispatched to your location. While SKFR responds to several types of events, the two most time critical are fires and cardiac arrests.



In the event of a fire at your home, SKFR's response plan consists of a battalion chief, four fire engines, two units for personnel (fire engine, ladder, ambulance), one paramedic ambulance, and two water tenders.



This compliment of resources is needed to deliver 15 firefighters to the scene as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Daily minimum staffing for SKFR is 19, with each of our fire engines carrying two firefighters on them. State law requires two firefighters to be available outside of the structure before two others can enter (two in/two out). The law allows us to enter a burning structure in the event of a known or suspected rescue with one firefighter outside (two in/one out). However, for SKFR to achieve this, there must be two units on scene.

The response of the water tenders is most often handled by our SKFR Volunteer Association personnel. In the event they are unavailable, career staff will bring these units. In total, a single housefire in our service will require most, if not all, of our on-duty personnel.



In the event of a cardiac arrest, SKFR's response plan will dispatch one paramedic ambulance and three manpower units (fire engine, ladder, ambulance). This plan is designed to result in the response of eight firefighter EMT/Paramedics to the scene. This number of personnel is needed to ensure high quality prehospital care is provided, as well as a quick response, as each of our units, regardless of type, is only carrying two people. In terms of our daily staffing, a cardiac arrest call requires just under half of our daily staffing.

