



# Mason County Fire District #4 Fireside Chat

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**In an Emergency  
Please Dial  
911**

**Fire Chief:**  
Bob Burbridge

**Assistant Chief, Operations:**  
Linda Jenkins

**Office Manager:**  
Lisa Scheibe Brengan

**MCFD#4 Commissioners:**  
Curt Bennett  
Dean Hirschi  
Gary Plews



“Only after I was at the hospital did I understand how critical my condition was. Your crew literally saved my life! I am forever grateful”  
-Dan, Community Member

## Chat with the Chief

Greetings from Fire District 4!

It has been our honor to continue to serve our communities as we continue to meet the current unprecedented needs, and new challenges like the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

With the trust you placed in your fire district, we have been able to meet new requirements and challenges while also continuing to provide the level of safety, security and service you expect, and more importantly deserve.

In 2015, you showed your support and voted yes on a 6-year EMS levy request. We are asking you to renew and make permanent an EMS levy, to

secure your fire district’s ability to meet your needs now and into the future.

There is no additional cost to you. Voting yes will make the long-term financial investment needed for our team to continue to serve in the areas of emergency medical service care and ambulance transportation, along with fire suppression, rescue, and prevention.

Thank you for your ongoing trust as we continue to serve.

In gratitude,  
*Bob Burbridge*  
Fire Chief



## Answering the Call

Numbers only tell part of the story.

This year, Mason County Fire District #4 has had to answer a new call and rise to new challenges in keeping our communities safe as we all navigate the unknowns of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

We are proud to say that your team has been able to meet these new requirements with the same high level of service you have come to expect.

District #4 is the third largest fire district in Mason County; we protect communities from Arcadia and Kamilche Point to the East, Grays Harbor to the West, and the City limits to Thurston County. It has also been our honor to serve the Squaxin Island Tribe through the Squaxin Island

Tribe’s Emergency Management Department.

Data are showing that we will be at or above last years EMS needs, and we remain ready to safely serve our communities and work to ensure the safety of personnel and our neighborhoods as we answer the call.

	Total Calls	EMS Calls
2010	900	605
2015	1185	735
2019	1408	843
2020 to date	610	404

# EMS Levy Frequently Asked Questions

## Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy Frequently Asked Questions

### What is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy?

An EMS levy is a voter approved levy providing taxpayer funding that can only be used to provide emergency medical care or services.



### What is the purpose of the proposed EMS levy?

On August 4th, voters will be asked to approve a permanent levy that will replace the current levy that expires on December 31, 2021. The EMS levy funds emergency medical services, like basic, and intermediate, life support services by certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

### Is this a new tax?

No, this would be a permanent continuation of the previously approved property tax levy from 2015. If approved, this levy would continue at the exact same rate of 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value.

### What is the current levy rate?

The current EMS levy rate is 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value.

### What will voting “yes” cost me?

Since this is a continuation of an existing voter approved levy, there is *no increase to you*. The current EMS levy of 50 cents per \$1000 costs the owner of a \$200,000 property parcel \$100 per year, or \$8.33 per month. The renewed levy would cost that homeowner the exact same amount in 2021 forward, with *no increase*.

### Does the EMS levy fund all EMS services provided by Mason County Fire District #4?

No. Mason County Fire District #4 has continued to seek additional funds to cover the gap between the levy and total cost of services. This includes community partnerships, ambulance transport billing and grant opportunities. The EMS levy covers approximately 68% of the EMS costs, creating stability of services.

### What were the results of the last levy?

Your approval provided the funding needed to complete goals from the strategic plan, which included the purchase of a much needed ambulance, funding of personnel to ensure full staffing on shift for rapid community response to emergency medical service needs, and the ability to ensure we have the equipment needed for community safety.

### Can the levy rate be increased later?

No.

### Why a permanent levy request?

Permanent levy approval provides voter-approved stable and consistent funding for the ongoing delivery of basic and intermediate levels of emergency medical services currently provided by our certified medical technicians.

Tools and equipment, once used only in an operating room setting, are now in the hands of our EMTs. Many of Mason County Fire District #4 EMTs have received advanced training to better serve our community. A permanent levy renewal will ensure the ongoing advanced training required to meet the ever-changing and advancing medical scope of practice.



## Hey Kids!

Siren here and I want to thank you for all the cool art you sent in from the last newsletter! Chief Bob hung it all over the stations and everyone enjoyed it so much!

You probably heard that I went on field trip and caused Chief Bob to worry a little. I missed seeing all the kids. The cool thing is that the Mason County Fire 4 Crew helped me safely see so many of you, and Chief did catch-up. I was a little embarrassed to have caused so much trouble.

My birthday is in July, and Chief said I could have BIG PARTY and invite you all! We may not get to see each other up close, but I have a special gift for you!

Also, I am collecting pet food for my friends who are in the shelter. So if you want to get me a birthday gift, just bring some pet food and help us do something nice for those pets who don't have a firehouse family like me.

I can't wait to see you in person at my birthday party!

See you July 19th at the Arcadia Firehouse from 2-4:00PM!

-Siren 





**FIRE DIST #4**

Protecting South County including Lake Isabella, Storeybrook, Arcadia, Kamilche and the Squaxin Island Tribe

**Fast, Focused, Flexible and Friendly**

*Siren is having a party!*

Come celebrate Siren's Birthday with a drive-thru birthday party!

**Who:** You  
**When:** Sunday, July 19th  
**Time:** 2-4:00PM  
**Where:** Arcadia Station,  
2970 SE Arcadia Rd, Shelton

*Siren is collecting pet food for local pet shelters for his birthday, and he will have something special for you to help you wipe-out fire and emergencies this summer!*

Kids of all ages won't want to miss this!

