

EMS Levy Placed On August Ballot

Mukilteo's current Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy approved in 2004 by voters at a rate of 35 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, will expire at the end of this year.

Once again, Mukilteo voters are being asked to cast their ballots on a new EMS measure during this year's Primary Election, set for August 17, 2010. The proposed EMS levy will provide a permanent source of funds that will be dedicated solely for the provision of Emergency Medical Services. If voters approve the 50 cents per \$1,000 levy, the levy would provide an estimated \$1.8 million a year for EMS services beginning next year, according to Scott James, the City's Finance Director.

Since the first levy passed, the City has made several improvements to its fire and emergency medical services. Nine firefighter/paramedics, twenty-four hour staffing at both stations by career firefighters, all calls on average responded to in under five minutes, a Medical Services Officer providing training and oversight of the paramedic program and automatic aid with adjacent departments ensures that the closest unit responds to calls for help.

Historical Perspective on EMS

In the 1960's, providers of emergency medical services began changing how they delivered EMS services in the United States due to medical research conducted during the military conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. Researchers at the time found that early field treatment of the sick and injured had positive impacts on patient outcomes. The researchers concluded that if emergency medical treatment could be applied rapidly in the field, a patient's chances for survival or reduced injury were significantly improved.

Based on these findings, local communities began looking for ways to provide quicker emergency medical responses to their residents and increase their chances for survival and reduce the severity of injuries during medical emergencies. Fire Departments throughout the country, including the Mukilteo Fire Department, became the primary providers of EMS response in their communities.

The City's EMS Services

Mukilteo began providing EMS services in the 1970's with a single ambulance. Over the past 35 years, the City continued its work to improve EMS delivery to better serve our growing community. Today, the Mukilteo Fire Department has two fire stations strategically located to help with quick responses and staffed with a highly trained workforce that provides both basic and advanced life medical support to our citizens. The Fire Department has responded to more than 6,000 medical calls since 2005. Additionally, since 2005, each year EMS-related incidents have accounted for more than 75% of all incidents responded to by the Fire Department.

If approved, the EMS Levy rate would not exceed \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or would not exceed \$50 per year for every \$100,000 of assessed value. The current

ballot measure would raise approximately \$1.8 million dollars annually, which will pay for the City's EMS services.

If you have any questions, contact the Mukilteo Fire Department at 425-263-8150 or visit our website at <http://www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us>