

Snohomish County Fire District 21 - Arlington Rural



Fire Protection and EMS Levy

Potential Risk Of Paramedic Services Ending July 1st

Overview -

The commission of Snohomish County Fire District 21 "Arlington Rural", has referred a levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services to the April 2024 ballot. This is a lid lift of a previously established levy approved by voters in 2018. If passed, the funds will be used to fund the hiring of Paramedics, increase Firefighter/EMT staffing, and improve the current level of services.



Why has the Board referred a levy to the ballot?

Fire District 21 is one of the largest District's by area, serving 10,000 residents across 70 square miles. Demands for emergency response are growing, with more than 1500 calls annually. Over 75% of these calls are for EMS services. District 21 is only able to provide Basic Life Support services, currently, the District contracts with a neighboring Fire District to provide Paramedic services to District 21 citizens. That contract will end on July 1st, 2024 leaving the District without Paramedics. Since 2018, there has been a 65% increase in call volume yet budget constraints have resulted in only a 5% increase in a total of 5 years.



What would a levy fund?

The levy, if passed, would hire Paramedics and be able to sustain paramedic service to its citizens. We would also be able to increase the staffing of Firefighters/EMTs appropriately to handle medical calls, car accidents, and initial response to house fires. These National recommendations are currently unable to be met and put citizens' and responders' lives in jeopardy. The revenue it would produce is necessary to improve the current level of services, including equipment and facilities, and the replacement of outdated apparatus to protect life and property.

How much would it cost? What happens if the levy does not pass?

Currently, this levy has dropped to \$0.92 per thousand over the last 5 years. The commissioners are requesting for it to be lifted to \$1.40 in 2025. If the levy does not pass District 21 will be without lifesaving Paramedic services..

