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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 11, 2018  
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**Questions about the fire levy lid lift? Come talk to us!**

CAMAS, WASH. – East County Fire and Rescue is hosting two public meetings to answer questions from the community about its upcoming fire levy lid lift to fund emergency services. The meetings will take place on Saturday, October 20 (10:00 a.m.) and Monday, October 29 (7:00 p.m.) at Station 91, 600 NE 267<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Camas.

The fire district has spent the past year communicating with local residents about increasing call volumes and revenue that is not keeping up with the demand for service. Emergency call volumes have increased almost 52 percent since 2007. More calls mean added costs for personnel, apparatus, equipment and supplies.

In contrast, the fire district is allowed a one percent increase per year, which is less than the cost of inflation at 3-4 percent. That's why the fire district is proposing a fire lid lift to restore funding and maintain emergency service levels for the community.

Voters originally approved a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2008. Since that time, the levy has fallen to \$1.29 per \$1,000. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year (plus the one percent).

If approved by voters, the 21-cent lid lift would be an additional \$7.87 per month for the owner of a \$450,000 home. Funding would be used to maintain emergency service levels, improve firefighter training, maintain facilities, and repair equipment and apparatus.

These items also are necessary to maintain the community's insurance rating, which affects the fire insurance premiums paid by home and business owners. ECFR invested in personnel, apparatus and facilities to improve this rating in 2017.

Community members are encouraged to attend one of the meetings, or contact Chief Carnes with their questions at (360) 834-4908 or [mcarnes@ecfr.us](mailto:mcarnes@ecfr.us). More information also can be found on the fire district's web site at [www.ecfr.us](http://www.ecfr.us).

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*East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) serves 10,000 people over 60 square miles in the unincorporated areas of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all its independent audits by the state. The level of service provided by ECFR has improved the community's insurance rating, which reduced premiums for home and business owners. More information on East County Fire and Rescue can be found on its web site [www.ecfr.us](http://www.ecfr.us).*