



Key Peninsula Fire Department
8911 Key Peninsula Highway KPN
Lakebay, WA 98349
(253) 884-2222
www.keypeninsulafire.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 25, 2012
CONTACT: Chief Tom Lique
tlique@piercefirere.org (253) 884-2222 Cell (253) 255-4028

Key Peninsula Fire holds public meetings on M&O levy

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is holding four public meetings in October for the public to learn more about a levy on the November General Election ballot to fund eight firefighter positions. The fire district is facing significant challenges to provide an adequate emergency response for its service territory of 17,000 people over 65 square miles.

Three fires in April and May highlighted the district's long response times and overreliance on mutual aid. While no lives have been lost, two family pets died and one fire fighter was hospitalized for heat exhaustion and dehydration.

On Aug. 31 of this year, the fire department received four emergency medical calls while battling an 11-acre wildfire. Fire Chief Tom Lique was quoted as saying that the department might not have been able to respond if fire fighters from other districts weren't on scene to help.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department has the fifth highest property losses from fires in Pierce County because of its inability to provide an adequate response. Homeowners have faced higher insurance premiums, as well. The Maintenance and Operations levy would cost the owner of a \$175,000 home an additional \$6.42 per month. Better response times are the key to saving lives and property, as well as reducing homeowner insurance premiums, medical and ambulance fees.

The first meeting on the levy will be during an Open House sponsored by the new Board of Fire Commissioners on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Highway KPN in Lakebay. Community members are invited to enjoy a Pancake Breakfast and brief presentation on the levy. This is the second such event organized by district fire commissioners to thank the public for their support. Three other meetings will be held as follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 23 – 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. – Longbranch Fire Station, 4215 Key Peninsula Hwy South, Lakebay
Thursday, Oct. 25 – 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – Wauna Fire Station, 10320 State Route 302 NW, Gig Harbor
Tuesday, Oct. 30 – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Home Fire Station, 1921 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay

There will be a brief presentation on the levy followed by a question and answer period. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information about the Key Peninsula Fire Department, visit www.keypeninsulafire.org.

###