

Pacific County Fire District #1

2020 EMS Levy Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is designed to provide residents of Pacific County Fire District #1 with facts and information about the upcoming Emergency Medical Services (EMS) measure.

1. Q: Is the EMS levy a new tax?

A: No. The Fire District #1 EMS levy has been in place since 1986 and is simply a renewal of the existing levy.

2. Q: What is an EMS levy?

A: An EMS levy provides funding dedicated to pre-hospital medical care service and is governed by State law (RCW 84.52.069).

3. Q: What pre-hospital medical services are provided through the EMS levy?

A: Services that Fire District #1 provides include:

- 24 hour a day Paramedic service, with immediate response from staffed stations, one in Ocean Park and the other in Seaview
- Emergency and non-emergency ambulance transport
- Initial and on-going medical training for Fire District #1 Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
- Public assists (helping move a disabled person)
- Public education (CPR / First Aid classes, Fall Prevention)
- Injury prevention (Car seat installations, free bicycle helmets)
- Special event medical stand-by
- Blood pressure checks at Ocean Park and Seaview stations

4. Q: What is the overall amount of funding requested?

A: This measure requests authorization to levy fifty cents per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. For example: If your home is valued at \$100,000, your annual tax would be \$50 or \$4.17 per month.

5. Q: Is this a permanent levy?

A: No. The EMS levy is a six-year levy.

6. Q: Does my Senior Citizen/ Disability Exemption apply to fire district levies?

A: Maybe. It depends on your income and the assessed value of your property. For more information regarding your specific property see the Assessor's web site at www.co.pacific.wa.us/assessor or call the Assessor's Office at 642-9301.

7. Q: Does Fire District #1 bill for service even if you are not transported?

A: No. Fire District #1 only bills for service if you are transported by ambulance.

8. Q: How much does an ambulance transport cost?

A: If you are transported by an ambulance, you are charged a user fee, which is based upon the level of care you received during the trip, plus mileage to the hospital. Below is a table illustrating the (2019) billing rates for ambulance providers in Pacific County.

Fee Level	Fire District #1	Medix Ambulance	NPCEMS*
Non-Emergency	\$350	\$1,500	\$800
Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$500	\$1,500	\$800
Advanced Life Support (ALS-1)	\$600	\$1,500	\$1,000
Advanced Life Support (ALS-2)	\$800	\$1,500	\$1,200
Specialty Care	\$925	\$3,100	\$1,300
Mileage	\$11.25/mile	\$21/mile	\$16/mile

* NPCEMS provides ambulance service to areas of north Pacific County

9. Q: If I pay my taxes, do I still get a bill for service?

A: If you are a tax-payer of the Fire District #1, the amount your medical insurance(s) pay for the transport will be considered payment in full. That also includes Medicare, Medicaid, and DSHS.

10. Q: How many requests for emergency medical services does the Fire District #1 handle annually?

A: Over the past six years, Fire District #1 has responded to more than 12,000 EMS related calls, while transporting nearly 7,500 patients. The District has seen about a 48% increase in calls for emergency medical services over the past six years.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
EMS Calls	1,611	1,771	1,987	2,196	2,177	2,334
Patient Transports	1,045	1,114	1,227	1,274	1,378	1,439

If you have any questions about the levy, contact Chief Jacob Brundage (665-4451) / brundage@pcfd1.org / or at the District Office at 26110 Ridge Avenue, Ocean Park