



Lane Fire Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voters asked to finalize merger between Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue *Fire chief available to speak on proposal*

[Veneta, Ore.] Voters are being asked to finalize a merger between Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue during the November General Election. Fire district officials say that the four-year partnership has reduced costs and improved emergency services for both communities.

Working together under a special agreement, the agencies have staffed one more fire station full-time, added an ambulance (with plans for another), and have additional emergency response units ready to serve both communities. These new emergency response capabilities improved the ISO rating for the fire districts, which means many home and business owners have benefitted from lower insurance premiums. Operating as one fire authority also has reduced costs for administrative overhead, training, equipment, fuel, and other supplies.

Voter approval would finalize the merger and reduce the bureaucracy and costs associated with running three organizations. Fire officials plan to use the additional savings from the merger to hire one more paramedic for the Veneta Station. This would staff an ambulance during peak call times for the first time from this location.

Fire Chief Terry Ney is available to present about the merger to community service organizations, groups and homeowner associations in Lane County. Interested parties are encouraged to contact him directly at (541) 935-2226 or terryney@lanefire.org to schedule a presentation.

If approved by voters, the new levy rate (based on 2016 assessed valuations) would be approximately \$2.04 per \$1,000 and take effect in July 1, 2017. This means that property owners in Lane Rural Fire/Rescue would see a tax decrease of 8-cents/\$1,000. Those in Lane County Fire District 1 would see a 5-cent/\$1,000 increase for improved service, which is roughly \$12 per year for the average homeowner.

More information about the merger can be found on Lane Fire Authority's web site at www.lanefire.org.

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Lane Fire Authority provides fire, life safety and emergency medical services (EMS) to 36,000 residents over 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley. This new partnership is actually two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – operating under a special agreement since 2012 that saves money and improves emergency services for the community. Our career and volunteer emergency personnel respond to over 4,800 emergency calls per year, 81% of which are for EMS.



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