



# Lane Fire Authority

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 18, 2016  
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### **Merger on ballot for Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue**

*Ballots due November 8*

[Veneta, Ore.] Two fire districts in Lane County have measures on the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election ballot asking voters to consider finalizing their merger into Lane Fire Authority. Lane County Fire District 1 (Measure 20-268) and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue (Measure 20-267) have been working together under the name “Lane Fire Authority” since 2012 to reduce costs and improve emergency services for both communities.

The partnership has reduced administrative overhead and other costs by as much as \$100,000 per district. Working together also has improved the fire insurance rating for both fire districts, which means that most homeowners and businesses will see lower property insurance premiums. Service level improvements include staffing one additional fire station full-time, adding one more ambulance (with plans for another), and two more emergency response units.

The partnership is working, but it’s not official yet. Voter approval would finalize the merger and reduce the bureaucracy and costs associated with running three organizations by approximately \$80,000 per year. Fire district officials plan to use the additional savings 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.

Ballots are due back at the Lane County Elections Office by November 8 at 8:00 p.m. Voters can mail their ballot in time for it to arrive on Election Day, or deposit it at an official ballot drop site. Drop sites are open 24 hours a day, and the one located in the fire authority’s service territory is at the Veneta City Hall, 88184 8th Street in Veneta, Ore. 97487.

A full list of ballot drop sites can be found on the Lane County Informational Insert on the Elections Department web site at <http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/CAO/Operations/CountyClerk/elections/Pages/CurrentElection.aspx>.

More information about the merger can be found on Lane Fire Authority’s web site at [www.lanefire.org](http://www.lanefire.org). People with questions about the merger proposal are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Terry Ney at (541) 935-2226 or [terryney@lanefire.org](mailto:terryney@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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