



MARION COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

Chief's Corner

By now, you have probably heard that our local option levy did not pass during the May Primary Election. We had been asking for an increase in the local option levy from \$0.71 to \$0.99 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Then COVID-19 hit, bringing economic uncertainty with it.

When the ballot measure failed so did the entire local option levy, which accounts for 30 percent (or \$2.4 million) of our operating budget. We have made cuts to balance the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which started July 1, 2020. What does this mean to our residents specifically?

Reduction of emergency personnel – The Fire District will eliminate two firefighter/EMTs and one Battalion Chief by the end of the year. In addition, it will reduce minimum staffing levels from 14 to 10 firefighter/EMTs per shift by cutting its overtime budget.

Reductions in staffing or hours of service – Stations in Macleay and Lake Labish will have all emergency apparatus moved to facilities in higher call volume areas. The Clear Lake Station also will lose a daytime engine company due to reduced staffing levels.

Summer Safety

Warm weather means many people want to head outside and we want to make sure that you do so with five simple safety tips in mind.

Heat/Dehydration – Drink water every 20 minutes when in hot temperatures to keep your body hydrated. If you're out for more than an hour, consider a fluid that will replenish electrolytes.

Grilling – Keep children and pets at least three feet from the grill area. Never leave your grill unattended and keep it clean by removing grease buildup. Locate the grill away from your home and anything flammable.

By Chief Kyle McMann

We anticipate response times for a fire engine will increase by five minutes or more for parts of the Fire District.

Employee concessions – Emergency personnel and administrative staff will have no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the next fiscal year. Wages also will be reduced through mandatory unpaid furlough days. There also will be cuts to the health care benefits they receive.

Our local option levy is critical to provide an adequate emergency response for residents in our district. We already were struggling to respond to higher call volumes, and the levy failure has made it even more challenging. That's why the Board of Directors has put the local option levy back on the ballot for November, but this time at the original \$0.71/\$1,000 – so no increase.

If approved by voters, funding would start being collected during the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2021. Over the next year, we will do the best we can within budget to serve you and your family. Thank you for your consideration.

Sunscreen – Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen for both UVB and UVA rays. Wearing sunscreen is important even if it's not a hot sunny day.

Boating – Wear a life vest at all times – even if you are a strong swimmer.

Swimming – Never swim alone in a pool or any other body of water. Use the buddy system! If someone is struggling, have a floatation device to throw to them before jumping in to help.





MARION COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

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Virtual Events Continue

Marion County Fire District #1 is continuing to find ways to connect with our community during the pandemic. That's why we have developed some fun virtual events that are sure to please all ages, and we hope you will take part! Visit our website or Facebook page under Events for the most current calendar. Keep a look out for additional events as well!

Member Mondays

On Mondays, we're profiling a firefighter or paramedic who works for you at Marion County Fire District #1. Learn what it takes to become a volunteer with our fire district. We need your help!

Tour Tuesdays

Every other Tuesday, a firefighter takes you on a tour of a station or a piece of emergency apparatus. These are your tax dollars at work, and we want to show how they are used or how we do our job to keep you safe.

Storytime with Luke and Lexi (and Chief Kyle)

Fire Chief Kyle McMann reads a popular children's book every other Friday at 7:30 p.m. with his dogs at his side. It's hard to tell who is more popular – Luke and Lexi, or Chief Kyle. (Actually, we know. But Chief Kyle is pretty cool, too.)

