



Lane Fire Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boards of Directors to meet on merger resolution *Public invited to comment*

[Veneta, Ore.] The Boards of Directors for Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue will hold two meetings to consider a resolution asking voters to finalize a merger between the two agencies during the November General Election. The public is invited to attend and comment.

The meetings will be June 21 and July 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Veneta Headquarters Station at 88050 Territorial Highway in Veneta. Members of the public who are unable to attend, but would still like to provide comment, are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Terry Ney at terryney@lanefire.org or P.O. Box 398, Veneta, OR 97487. All comments are a matter of public record.

Since 2012, the fire districts have been working together under a special agreement as Lane Fire Authority. This partnership has reduced costs and improved emergency services for property owners in both fire districts. Voter approval would finalize the merger and reduce the bureaucracy associated with running three organizations.

Fire officials plan to use the savings from the merger to hire one additional paramedic for the Veneta Station. This would staff an ambulance during peak call times for the first time from this location. By working together, 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 areas in Lane County.

These new emergency response capabilities improved the ISO rating for the fire districts, which means many homeowners have benefitted from lower insurance premiums. Operating as one fire authority also has reduced costs for administrative overhead, training, equipment, fuel, and other supplies.

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, or approximately \$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. Fire Chief Terry Ney is also available to answer questions at (541) 935-2226 or 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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