



SKAGIT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 13

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chief

Hello District 13,

I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community during our 3 Meet and Greets over the past couple of months. People explained to me how important our services are to their lives now and in the future. Folks sought me out to tell me their personal stories about the dedicated and caring firefighter's and EMT's here at District 13. It made me very proud to be part of such a wonderful team.

On another note, in less than 2 weeks I leave on a journey to Bradenton, Florida to pick up our brand new 3,000-gallon tender. This will replace our antiquated 35-year-old tender and enhance the protection of our community with a dramatically updated safer and more effective fire apparatus. I will cross over 11 state lines. My wife Chris and I did a similar journey that first brought us to this community 36 years ago.

On my return, I look forward to celebrating with all of you as we perform the time-honored blessing and "Push-in Ceremony" (This beast weighs 56,000 lbs. and I will need all of you to physically push it into its spot here at the fire hall).

I will also require your help as we push this fire district into the future. Resoundingly, all of you have stated that you want us to continue to offer all our unique services including 24/7 fire and EMS coverage, Basic Life Support Transport, Good Morning District 13, CARES community assistance program, free smoke alarm installation, Red Card Wildland Teams, Rope Rescue Teams, Water Rescue Teams, and quality CPR instruction. All of this requires paid, trained and dedicated personnel with appropriate up to date apparatus like this tender, and next year's much needed replacement of our 38-year old fire engine.

All of this costs money and in recent years we have relied heavily on the Swinomish. Unfortunately, those contributions are not guaranteed and to stabilize the district's services and combat inflation we must, in November, **for the first time in our history**, go to the voters for a levy lid lift.

Thank you for your continued support, Chief Wood.



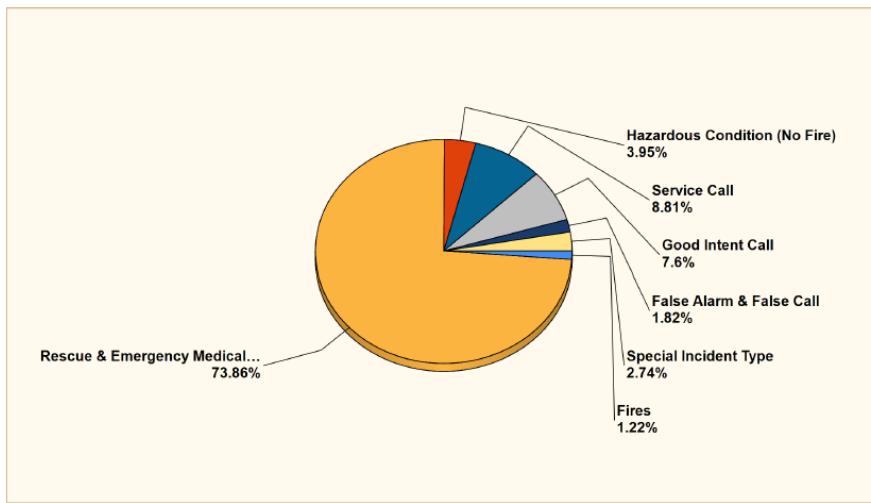
Fire District 13 Services

Fire District 13 is proud to offer a range of services to support the health, safety, and independence of our community:

- ◆ **24/7 Emergency Response**
Always ready to respond when you need us most.
- ◆ **Good Morning District 13**
Helping individuals live independently through daily wellness check-ins. Customized times and days to fit your needs.
- ◆ **FD13 CARES**
Connecting you to vital local resources—mental health services, substance abuse support, crisis intervention, and more.
- ◆ **Smoke Alarm Installation**
In partnership with the Red Cross, we offer **free smoke alarm installation** to help keep your home safe.
- ◆ **CPR & First Aid Training**
Be prepared to save a life—sign up for one of our CPR and First Aid classes.

For more information on any of these programs, call us at **360-399-1027**.

Second Quarter 2025 Calls



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	4	1.22%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	243	73.86%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	13	3.95%
Service Call	29	8.81%
Good Intent Call	25	7.6%
False Alarm & False Call	6	1.82%
Special Incident Type	9	2.74%
TOTAL	329	100%



Coming Soon:

Our new 2025 Pierce Tender should be arriving to our District in early September. Watch our reader board for notification of when it will be "pushed" into service.

Proposition One

Authorizing Regular Property Tax Levy

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Skagit County Fire District 13 adopted Resolution No. 2025-07-01 concerning a proposition to authorize the District's regular property tax levy. This measure would authorize the District's regular property tax levy to be \$1.11 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2025 (for collection in 2026) and would authorize an annual limit factor of 106% (not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000) for each of the five succeeding years. The maximum allowable levy in 2030, collected in 2031, shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

What is a Fire Department Property Tax Levy?

A Fire Department Property Tax Levy is a type of local property tax that is specifically designated to fund fire protection and emergency services.

Why is the increase needed in property tax funds?

An increase is needed in property tax funds in order to:

- **Purchase new firefighting apparatus** to replace aging and outdated equipment.
- **Upgrade fire stations** to ensure they meet modern standards and can accommodate a growing number of staff and equipment.
- **Increase firefighter training programs** to ensure staff are prepared for the diverse range of emergencies they may encounter.
- **Ensure proper staffing levels** to maintain response times and meet the increasing demand for fire and emergency medical services.
- **Support community outreach and safety programs** such as our Good Morning District 13 program and our CARES program.

What Does This Mean for You?

If the levy is approved, homeowners will see a modest increase in property taxes. However, this investment will directly enhance the safety and security of our community, ensuring that emergency services can continue without interruption.

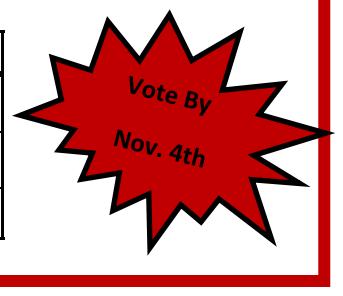
This levy will help prevent delays in emergency response times, maintain high-quality services, and protect lives and property. It will also help reduce the financial burden of emergency services on residents by ensuring that resources are available when needed, rather than relying solely on unpredictable funding sources.

What Will The Increase Cost Me?

If approved, the property tax levy would increase by approximately .52 cents (to \$1.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV)). For a property with an assessed value of \$400,000, the added property tax would be \$208 a year or \$17.33 a month.



Assessed Value	Increase Per Month	Increase per Year
\$400,000.00	\$17.33	\$208.00
\$500,000.00	\$21.67	\$260.00
\$600,000.00	\$26.00	\$312.00



Skagit County Fire District 13
17433 Snee-Oosh Road
La Conner, WA 98274

Message from Board Chairman, Bruce Shellhamer

Since becoming a commissioner several years ago, I've been continually impressed by the skill, knowledge, and professionalism of the firefighters serving District 13. Even more inspiring, however, is the genuine compassion and care they consistently demonstrate. In a profession that often responds to crisis and hardship, that empathy is deeply meaningful to those they serve.

At a recent Commissioner meeting, Captain Ferrell shared compelling data about our CARES (Community Assistance Referral & Education Services) program, made possible through a generous grant from the Swinomish Tribe. Together with our *Good Morning District 13* program, our team of CARES EMTs and firefighters takes a proactive, personalized approach—connecting individuals with health and social service resources tailored to their needs.

Captain Ferrell presented a comparison of six (anonymous) households that joined the CARES program. In 2024, before their enrollment, those homes collectively called 911 seventy-eight times, resulting in 15 emergency room transports. In the first six months of 2025, those same households made just three 911 calls, with only two ER transports.

This dramatic reduction not only increases our availability to respond to other emergencies, but more importantly, reflects the real, human impact of the CARES program. While I don't know the names of the individuals involved, it's clear their lives—and likely the lives of their loved ones—are less burdened by fear, uncertainty, and repeated emergencies. To me, that's what it means to truly love and serve our neighbors.

Fire District 13 is currently the only rural fire district in Skagit County offering the CARES program, and one of only a few in the entire state. If you'd like to learn more, or if you or someone you care about could benefit from this life-changing support, please contact our District office at **360-466-1224** or email Secretary@skagitfire13.net.

Station 2 (Main Station)

17433 SneeOosh Road
La Conner, WA 98274
360-466-1224

Station 1

8652 Stevenson Road
Anacortes, WA 98221



Skagit County Fire District Administration:

Wood Weiss, Fire Chief

Jamie Jurd, Battalion Chief

Chris Olbu, Captain, Training Officer

Andrew Ferrell— Captain, CARES

Duane Dent, Captain

Board of Commissioners:

Bruce Shellhamer, Chair

John Doyle, Vice-Chair

Jeremy (JJ) Wilbur, Commissioner