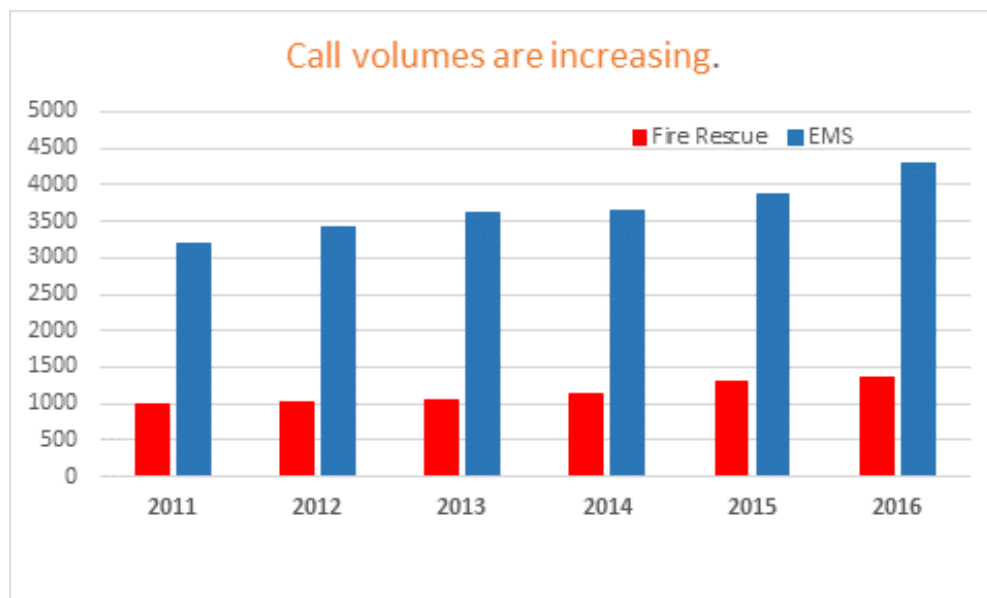


Contact: Chief Kevin O'Brien
Phone: 425.212.3044
Email: kobrien@lsfire.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Stevens Fire: Emergency call volumes up 35 percent in past six years
Most calls are for emergency medical service



LAKE STEVENS, WA –Now that 2016 has ended, the latest numbers are available and Lake Stevens Fire responded to a record-breaking 5,655 calls in 2016.

"Fire and rescue made up 24 percent of our calls last year," said Chief Kevin O'Brien. "Emergency medical service accounted for 76 percent of all calls, and that number has been growing steadily over the last six years. It will likely continue to increase as our population ages and they require more health care."

Lake Stevens Fire provides fire and emergency medical services to 44,000 people over 42-square miles of territory.

"I'm proud of our firefighters and paramedics," Chief O'Brien said. "These calls aren't just statistics to us: each one is a person who means the world to a loved one."

The fire district's emergency medical service program is primarily funded through a fire and EMS levy. Demand for service is up as are the costs to provide it. However, the fire district is limited by law to revenue increases of one percent per year. The EMS levy also has fallen from 50 cents to 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

Phone: 425.334.3034
Fax: 425.334.6981
www.lsfire.org

"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

Fire Commissioners:
Troy Elmore, Paul Gagnon, Jim Steinruck
Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Chief O'Brien said Lake Stevens Fire will consider asking voters to restore funding for the EMS program to the previously voter-approved amount of 50 cents sometime in 2017. The fire district plans to hold public meetings about the issue sometime this summer before making its final decision.

"EMS is our most widely used emergency service," said Chief O'Brien. "We hope the community sees value in funding this life-saving service."

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Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-skilled firefighters and paramedics respond to more than 5,600 calls per year, 76 percent of which are for emergency medical service (EMS). Lake Stevens Fire is proud to be debt free, operate under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing independent audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.lsfire.org.

