

## **Proposed East Fire Station**

### **Duvall King County Fire District 45**

#### **EMS Service Levels**

**Sept 15, 2018**

#### **What level of EMS service will be provided at the new fire station?**

If funding is approved by the voters, Duvall King County Fire District 45 will staff the new station with firefighters who are also trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). This is the same level of training as firefighters in our headquarters station (in Duvall) as well as at fire stations in Carnation, Fall City, Redmond Ridge, and most other areas of King County.

#### **What levels of EMS response are provided in our region?**

In King County, emergency medical services (EMS) are provided at two levels. They are:

- **Basic Life Support (BLS).** In King County, BLS is provided by firefighters who are trained at the “Emergency Medical Technician” (EMT) level. EMTs in King County are trained to handle a wide range of medical emergencies such as splinting, bandaging, extricating and securing patients from auto accidents. EMTs can provide oxygen, Narcan, Epinephrine, and perform high quality CPR and defibrillation. Most staffed fire stations in King County are staffed with firefighter/EMTs. EMTs are dispatched on almost every medical emergency and are typically the first trained aid providers to arrive on scene. The majority of medical emergencies in King County are handled by EMTs trained at the BLS level.
- **Advanced Life Support (ALS).** In King County, ALS is provided by dedicated paramedics that are trained at Harborview in an intense year-long program. Paramedics can interpret heart rhythms, intubate patients (insert an endotracheal tube to facilitate or restore breathing), and administer intravenous fluids and medications. In the King County EMS model, paramedics are dispatched along with EMTs to treat patients with critical injuries and illnesses.

#### **Who employs ALS paramedics?**

In many counties, each fire department or fire district must fund, hire, and train their own paramedics, or contract with a neighboring agency to provide ALS services. In King County, The Medic One levy provides funding for ALS services county-wide. Paramedic units (two paramedics responding together in an aid unit) are employed either directly through King County or by partner agencies. In Northeast King County, paramedics are employed by Redmond Fire Department, but funded by King County. The other paramedic providers in King County are the Shoreline Fire Department, Bellevue Fire Department, and the Seattle Fire Department. King County runs the medic program in South King County without a partnering agency. King County contracts with a Snohomish County fire district to provide ALS services in Baring and Skykomish, along the US Highway 2 corridor.

### **Who decides where ALS paramedic units are located?**

As part of a county-wide system, paramedic units are placed strategically around the county based on demand for ALS services and population. This regional two-tiered approach utilizing both BLS and ALS providers has proved to be an efficient model compared with each fire department hiring and training their own paramedics regardless of demand or call volume.

King County Emergency Medical Services conducts regular reviews of the ALS program, and looks at current and projected call volume and population growth when projecting future program needs.

### **Who responds when I call 911 – ALS or BLS responders?**

When someone in the Duvall King County Fire District 45 service area calls 911, the dispatcher is trained to rapidly triage the call and determine what level of care is needed.

- If the caller requests assistance for someone with relatively minor injuries or illness, they will dispatch the closest BLS unit. The BLS unit could be a Duvall King County Fire District 45 aid car or engine, as both are staffed with firefighter/EMTs.
- If the caller reports a critically ill patient (such as someone having a decreased level of consciousness, heart attack, respiratory arrest, or severe trauma), the dispatch center sends the closest BLS unit and also dispatches the closest ALS unit, which in our area is typically the paramedic unit based at the Woodinville Fire station at Cottage Lake. Depending on need, additional medic units could be sent from Monroe, Redmond, North Bend, or Sammamish. The BLS unit is typically first on scene. Depending on the situation, BLS responders (EMTs) may administer life-saving treatments such as Epinephrine or Narcan or they may begin CPR and defibrillation. Based on patient needs, the EMTs may choose to prepare the patient for rapid transport and meet the paramedics on their way to a hospital.

During floods and road closures (such as the recent complete closure of the Woodinville-Duvall Road for a week during road repairs), Duvall Fire works with King County Emergency Medical Services and Redmond Medic One to move a paramedic unit to the Duvall Fire headquarters station. This mitigates what would otherwise be very slow response times if the paramedic unit had to take a detour around flood waters or road closures.

### **Where can I get more information about EMS service levels?**

For more information about the King County Medic One System, you can visit their website:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/emergency-medical-services/about-us.aspx>

If you have questions about our local fire department resources, call Duvall Fire at 425-788-1625 weekdays during business hours.