



LACEY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

Making A Difference

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Frank Kirkbride
Tom Nelson
Judy Wilson
FIRE CHIEF
Steve Brooks

-PRESS RELEASE-

Lacey Fire District Three Renews Contract and Partnership with Medic One

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Contact: Fire Chief Steve Brooks at (360) 239-8593 or sbrooks@laceyfire.com

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Lacey Fire District Three, in partnership with Thurston County Medic One, has renewed its contract for providing paramedic level emergency medical services. One significant enhancement in the five year agreement is the additional staffing required to bring the paramedic unit stationed in Hawks Prairie, which provides primary services to the entire northeastern portion of the county, up from twelve hours per day staffing to a fully operational twenty-four hour unit.

Since it began operations in October of 2006, the paramedics assigned to Medic Six, which operates from the District's Steilacoom Rd. Station, have only been on duty from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. This means that nighttime responses in the area have to be fulfilled by other units responding from significantly greater distances. The result is delayed response times when compared to other urban and suburban service areas in the county. The best news is that the service enhancements, which will be phased in over the next sixteen months, were able to be negotiated within the existing Medic One and District budgets, said Lacey Fire District Chief Steve Brooks. In these troubled economic times, it was important for both agencies to try and maximize the available dollars to improve the delivery of these critical services, Brooks said. One mechanism for conserving costs was a reduction in the administrative fees for the District's operation of the unit by over thirty-four thousand dollars, which was made possible by a staff reorganization.

The Board of County Commissioners signed the agreement, which had already been approved by the Fire Commissioners, on Tuesday afternoon. The District will now move forward with its planning for the expanded response capacity of the unit. Citizens will begin seeing response time improvements by late spring or early summer of this year.