



GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor 98332
(253) 851-3111 | www.gigharborfire.org

[f](#) GigHarborFire | [t](#) gigharborfire | [i](#) gig_harbor_fire_medic_one

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Contact: Fire Chief Dennis Doan
(253) 851-3111 DDoan@gigharborfire.org

EMS Levy Renewal on November General Election Ballot

Levy provides highest quality emergency medical service called Advanced Life Support

[Gig Harbor, Wash.] – Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One is asking voters to renew its levy for emergency medical services on the November General Election ballot. In 2021, EMS calls accounted for 78 percent of all emergency calls.

“EMS accounts for the supermajority of our calls,” Fire Chief Dennis Doan said. “Thanks to community support, we provide the highest level and quality of care with skilled paramedics 24 hours a day. We also don’t charge Gig Harbor residents for ambulance transport costs to area hospitals. This is included in the EMS levy.”

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One provides the highest quality level of EMS care available called “Advanced Life Support.” This means its EMS program includes highly skilled paramedics with more than 1,000 hours of training. Paramedics can start intravenous lines, administer medication, provide advanced airway management to help patients breathe, and can interpret EKG readings of a heart attack patient, among other lifesaving medical care procedures.

The EMS levy that funds this lifesaving care is capped at \$0.50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This rate was approved by voters in 2016 and has since dropped to \$0.44/\$1,000. The \$0.06/\$1,000 increase would cost \$2.50 per month (\$30 per year) for the owner of a \$500,000 home.

Since 2016, EMS calls have increased 16.7%. EMS calls for the first sixth months of 2022 were 12.4% higher than the same period in 2021. Renewing the EMS levy at the same rate helps the fire district keep up with increasing call volumes and demands for service.

More information about the EMS renewal can be found at www.gigharborfire.org/about/EMS. Fire Chief Dennis Doan also welcomes questions at 253-851-3111 or ddoan@gigharborfire.org.

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Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5 (known as Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One) provides fire and life safety services to 53,000 people over 54 square miles. The Fire District responded to 6,350 calls in 2021. Emergency medical service accounts for 78% of all calls. Through community support, Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One has built one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Pierce County with highly trained personnel and rescue programs.