



# MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS (M&O) REPLACEMENT LEVY

» ELECTION: FEBRUARY 12, 2019

*Voter Information for the Communities We Serve*

Liberty Lake, Millwood, Otis Orchards, Spokane Valley and areas of unincorporated Spokane County

## A Message from your Fire Chief Bryan Collins



We are asking voters to consider a ballot measure that provides critical funding for the Spokane Valley Fire Department. Our four-year Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levy is expiring, and we are seeking approval of a replacement M&O levy for another four years.

We work to carefully control expenditures, and ask our citizens only for monies needed to sustain or improve emergency services. SVFD is a “pay as you go” organization. We do not carry bonded debt. And, we don’t buy what we can’t afford, ensuring that tax dollars are not paid out in debt service.

SVFD employees work hard to deliver excellent fire and emergency medical responses, providing tremendous value to the communities we serve. As one of only 200 Accredited Agencies in the world, you are assured that SVFD follows “best practices” in every aspect of our operations. We are also one of six “Class 2” rated fire agencies (the only one in Eastern WA) as determined by the **Washington**

**Surveying and Rating Bureau** which evaluates a fire department’s ability to suppress and control fires.

This Class 2 rating means that our homeowners and businesses are in the lowest cost pool available in the State when purchasing fire insurance.

Last year, SVFD responded to more than 1,800 fires and saved \$16 million in property value or 88% of the total value of the properties and contents involved. We respond to medical emergencies with paramedics who deliver advanced life support services to all citizens. Our sudden cardiac arrest survival rate of over 50% is among the best in the entire nation.

Without renewal of the M&O Levy, SVFD will simply be unable to continue providing the excellent level of response you have come to expect.

Please review the information provided here and contact me with questions. I also urge you to exercise your right to Vote on **February 12, 2019**.

~ Fire Chief Bryan Collins



## M&O LEVY AT A GLANCE

- » **Provides essential funding** – the M&O Levy funds **54%** of the Department’s annual operational budget
- » **Keeps up with growth** – projected call volume and population **increases as well as inflation** are factored into the M&O levy dollar amounts
- » **Pays for capital projects** – careful planning for future capital improvements using levy dollars means **no bonded debt** for taxpayers
- » **Replaces expiring M&O levy – this is not a new tax.** It replaces the expiring four-year M&O levy approved by voters in 2015.
- » **Requires 60% approval** – unlike school levies, our M&O levy requires **at least 60%** voter approval to pass

Visit [spokanevalleyfire.com](http://spokanevalleyfire.com) for more M&O levy information.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Receive **18,000+** calls per year—that’s an average of about **50** calls per day
- Deliver emergency medical services to **86%** of calls each year
- Experienced growth over the past 5 years:
  - ↑ Call volume is up **34%**
  - ↑ Population is up by nearly **7,000** residents
- Operate **10** fire stations with **12** front-line fire engines and trucks
- Employ **200** personnel – **175** responders and **25** support
- Serve more than **125,000** citizens across **75** square miles



**DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY**

**FEB. 12 2019**

**ELECTION DAY!**

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



**FIRE** – Firefighters respond to more than **1,800** fire calls per year, working quickly to control and extinguish fires in homes, outbuildings, apartments, businesses, vehicles, brush and timber.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** – High quality emergency medical services (EMS) are delivered by firefighters and paramedics every day. In fact, we respond to about **15,000** EMS calls per year – an average of **41** calls per day.



**RESCUE** – Specially-trained and equipped firefighters respond to a variety of rescue calls including **swimmers** in the Spokane River, injured **hikers** in the Dishman Hills and people trapped in motor vehicle **collisions**.

**RISK REDUCTION** – Proactive, targeted outreach and education is working to reduce our community’s highest risks. Last year, we installed **1,715** smoke alarms in **568** homes through our free Home Fire Safety Visit program.



**OUTREACH** – We are deeply involved in our community and schools. Among our many activities, we deliver fire safety, prevention and CPR education to **6,300** students in **40** schools across the greater Spokane Valley, each year

LIKE US @SpokaneValleyFireDepartment

FOLLOW US @SpokaneValleyFD

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
SPokane, WA  
Permit #7  
EGRWSS  
POSTAL  
CUSTOMER

2120 N Willbur  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206



# SVFD 2019 LEVY

On February 12, 2019, SVFD voters will be asked to replace the expiring SVFD four-year M&O levy for another four years. The funds will be used for day-to-day operations, as well as additional capital projects:

BE SURE TO RETURN  
YOUR BALLOT BY  
**FEB. 12, 2019**  
ELECTION DAY!

- **Replacement of aging fire vehicles** – continue replacing emergency response vehicles as they reach the end of their useful life
- **Alternative Response Unit (ARU)** – place at least one more two-person ARU into service to support our new medical service delivery model, providing cost-effective service for non-life threatening emergencies
- **Equipment** – essential emergency equipment including defibrillators, thermal imaging cameras, spreaders (“jaws of life”) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs)
- **Sullivan Fire Station #5 Remodel** – minor renovations to include the addition of an entryway to provide citizens with 24/7 safe zone, a feature in all other SVFD fire stations
- **Replace aging Maintenance Facility** – built 25 years ago, vehicle service volume now exceeds the 2.5 service bays currently available in our maintenance and training facility. We need to double the size to meet our vehicle service needs for the next 20-25 years. Our plan is to build a new maintenance facility in a different location which will free up space to expand our existing training facility.
- **Growth** – based on growth trends and projections, a new fire station (#11 – near Barker & Euclid), ladder truck and the firefighters to operate them will be needed in the next four years to continue to provide exceptional service to our community

## M&O LEVY APPROVED BY VOTERS ON 2015 BALLOT

Collection Year	M&O Levy Amount	M&O Levy Tax Rate
2019	\$19,900,000	\$1.80/\$1000

## PROPOSED FOUR-YEAR REPLACEMENT M&O LEVY (2020-2023)

Collection Year	M&O Levy Amount	M&O Levy Tax Rate*
2020	\$26,150,000	\$1.90/\$1000
2021	\$27,500,000	\$1.90/\$1000
2022	\$30,000,000	\$1.97/\$1000**
2023	\$30,000,000	\$1.88/\$1000

\*estimated levy tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation  
\*\*major capital expenditures planned

## WHAT WILL THE REPLACEMENT M&O LEVY COST ME IN 2020\*?

Assessed Valuation	Per Year	Per Month
\$100,000	\$190	\$15.83
\$200,000	\$380	\$31.67
\$300,000	\$570	\$47.50

\*estimated levy tax rate \$1.90/\$1000

## LOOKING BACK

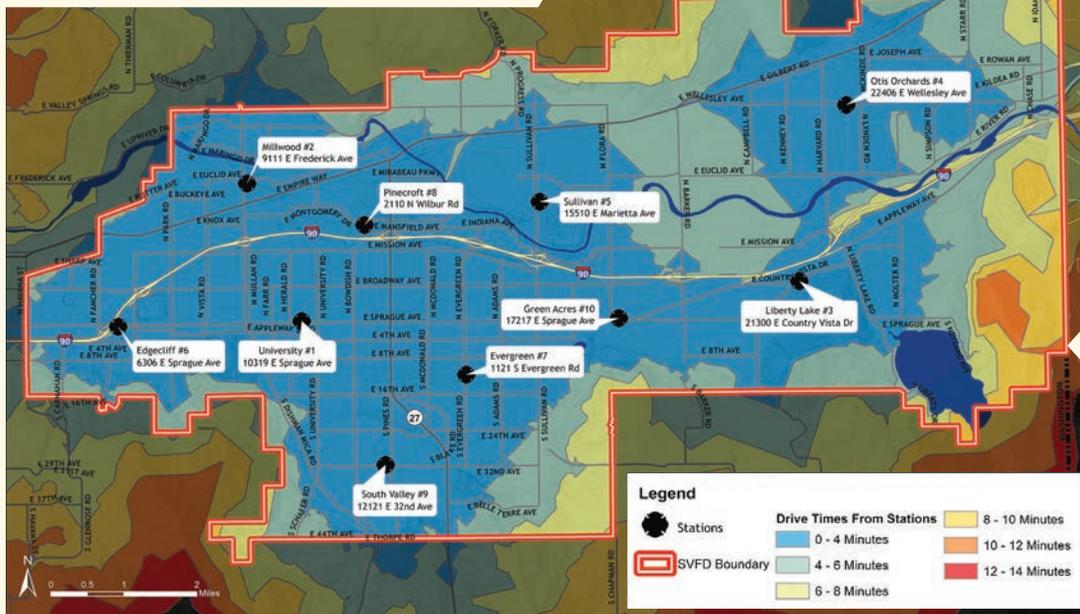
SVFD 2015 Levy



In February 2015, 72% of voters approved SVFD's four-year Replacement M&O levy. These taxpayer dollars have been used as intended – for day-to-day operations and specific capital projects including:

- **Relocated Liberty Lake Fire Station #3** – Completed on time and under budget at the end of 2017, Liberty Lake Fire Station #3 was relocated from N. Harvard Road to help ensure that response coverage keeps pace with development and growth, while maintaining the fast response times our communities rely upon. The new location is adjacent to the future Henry Road/I-90 overpass.
- **Evaluated and implemented Alternative Response Unit (ARU) “Medic 7”** – After a six-month ARU trial in 2017, the department implemented “Medic 7” to respond to non-life threatening medical calls during peak times. The two-person crew, including a paramedic, responds in a Ford F250 truck, reducing response cost, mileage and wear on fire engines and ladder trucks.

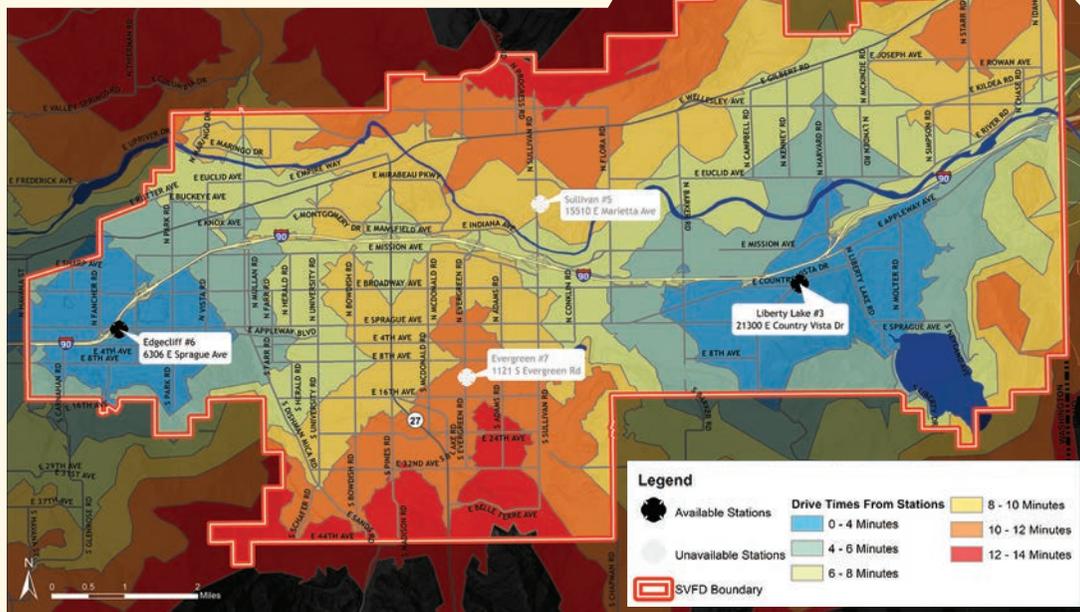
## ESTIMATED DRIVE TIME WITH M&O LEVY



## SVFD WITH M&O LEVY REVENUE

- **Operate 10** fire stations with **12** front-line fire apparatus staffed with **175** responders and **25** support personnel
- **Provide** emergency medical services delivered by Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- **Continue** responding to **18,000+** emergency calls each year within **4** minutes (to most areas)

## ESTIMATED DRIVE TIME WITHOUT M&O LEVY



## SVFD WITHOUT M&O LEVY REVENUE

- **Station Closures** – **6** out of **10** fire stations will close, leaving only **4** stations spread out over **75** square miles, responding to **18,000+** emergency calls each year within **8-14 minutes** IF available
- **No Paramedics** – Advanced Life Support services would cease to be provided due to cost and staffing
- **Reduced Availability** – with only **12** firefighters on duty responding to approximately **50** calls for service each day, firefighters will be much busier and not available to quickly respond to emergencies that occur when they are already at an emergency (as shown). In the event of a fire, ALL firefighters will respond leaving the rest of the Valley with NO Coverage.
- **Higher Insurance Costs** – Diminished fire response services will increase SVFD's **Class 2** rating to a **5/6**, resulting in significantly higher fire insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses.