



Yakima County Fire Protection District No. 5

SERVING 700 SQUARE MILES

TODD LUNNING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

ERNEST W. GASSELING - DAVID R. CHARVET
BOARD MEMBERS

KEN SHIPMAN
DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 9, 2023
Contact: Ken Shipman, Fire Chief
ken.shipman@ycfd5.org or 509-829-5111.

Come see fire stations and learn more about the bond at Open Houses

Proposition will be on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot

Zillah, Wash. – Yakima County Fire District 5 invites the community to tour Fire Stations 3, 5, and 10 and learn more about the capital facilities bond that will be on the November general election ballot. The Fire District has been sharing its plans to improve emergency services, and this is a great opportunity for the public to see first-hand how their tax dollars will be put to work to improve emergency response.

Learn more at the following station tours and Open Houses:

- Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Station 3 (Harrah), located at 4111 Harrah Road
- Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Station 5 (Parker), located at 360 Columbia St.
- Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Station 10 (Zillah), located at 717 First Ave.

Fire District 5 Commissioners and Chief Officers will be available to answer any questions.

The bond would renovate stations to improve emergency response and the health and safety of firefighters and emergency personnel. It would also fund essential equipment and apparatus that have reached the end of their useful lives.

The Fire District has identified several deficiencies that need to be addressed. For example, fire stations lack enough sleeping quarters to allow for faster response times. They also lack modern decontamination areas for equipment that has been exposed to carcinogens and medical by-products, and showers for emergency personnel to wash themselves after being exposed to those same hazardous materials. The station improvements would also help recruit and retain personnel.

Yakima County Fire District 5 is the largest fire district in the state geographically and responds to an average of 2,700 calls per year and is under regular threat from wildland fires in both populated and unpopulated areas. The Fire District's call volumes have increased by 22 percent since 2015 and revenue is not able to fund facilities and equipment. Since its formation in 1947, it has never asked for a tax

increase. This is no longer an option because Fire District 5 can no longer fund its capital needs through its fire levy.

The bond is projected at \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It would cost the owner of a \$300,000 piece of property (considered average) \$84 a year or \$7 a month.

Learn more about Fire District 5's funding requests at www.ycfd5.org. Fire Chief Ken Shipman and Chief Officers also welcome questions at 509-829-5111.

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Yakima County Fire District 5 provides fire suppression, prevention, emergency medical service and a wildland fire response to 36,000 people over 800 square miles from. District 5 is proud to be a "combination department" relying on volunteers, part-time and full-time emergency personnel to respond to calls. Visit www.ycfd5.org to learn more about the fire district. We also welcome volunteer applications online or by contacting our main office at (509) 829-5111.