

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FIRE DISTRICT DISSOLUTION



What is being asked of North Mason Voters in the November election?

The Board of Fire Commissioners are asking voters that reside within the boundaries of Mason County Fire Districts 2 (Belfair and surrounding communities) and Mason County Fire District 8 (Tahuya and surrounding communities) to dissolve or eliminate the Fire Districts, as they are no longer necessary for fire and emergency medical service protection in North Mason County.

Why are Mason County Fire Districts 2 and 8 no longer needed?

In November of last year, North Mason voters approved a measure to consolidate the resources of both Mason County Fire Districts 2 and 8 and form the North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA). In January of this year the NMRFA took over the provision of all fire, emergency medical and emergency services from the Fire Districts. The NMRFA is the only emergency service provider in North Mason County. With the formation of the NMRFA, the Fire Districts no longer provide any type of public service and no longer serve a purpose.

By voting in favor of dissolving Mason County Fire Districts 2 and 8, will my emergency services be affected in any way?

No. Since January, all local emergency services are provided by the North Mason Regional Fire Authority and they will continue to be with dissolution of the Fire Districts.

Will dissolution of the Fire Districts cause my fire and ems taxes to increase, or increase my cost for emergency services?

No. The dissolving of the Fire Districts will not increase your taxes or cost for emergency services in any way.



North Mason
Fire

P.O. Box 277 - NE 460 Old Belfair Hwy - Belfair, WA 98528

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Will the North Mason Regional Fire Authority be negatively impacted in any way with the dissolution of the Fire Districts?

No. In fact, the NMRFA will benefit from dissolving the Fire Districts by eliminating administrative provisions for the Fire Districts that must now be attended to by NMRFA staff and paid for with NMRFA operating funds. These required administrative provisions for the Fire Districts include maintaining a Board of Fire Commissioners, state financial reporting, resource transfers and bi-annual financial audit reports for each Fire District.

Will our local firefighters and volunteer emergency personnel be affected in any way by dissolving the Fire Districts?

No. All emergency service staff and volunteers now provide their services for the North Mason Regional Fire Authority. They would not be negatively impacted in any way by dissolving the Fire Districts.



If it is clear that the Mason County Fire Districts 2 and 8 no longer serve a purpose and local emergency services will not be impacted in any way, why is there a vote of the people?

Washington State law mandates that a simple majority (50% + 1) vote of the people residing within the respective Fire District be obtained in order to dissolve a Fire District (RCW 52.10.010).

When forming the North Mason Regional Fire Authority did the Fire Commissioners plan on dissolving the Fire Districts?

Yes. In addition to forming the NMRFA last November, voters also approved a "Service Plan", presented to them by the Fire Commissioners. The Service Plan outlines how the Fire Authority is to operate and proceed. The voter approved Service Plan also identifies the need to dissolve the Fire Districts at the end of 2014, once they had no purpose and provided no public services. The Fire Commissioners request of voters to dissolve the Fire Districts is in accordance with the voter approved Service Plan.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact North Mason Regional Fire Authority Fire Chief Beau Bakken by phone at 360-275-6711 Ext. 200, or by email at bbakken@northmasonrfa.com for this or any other matter pertaining to emergency services.