



# Mica Kidd Island Fire District

## Levy Override

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### 1. What is on your May 16, 2023, Election Ballot?

MKI Fire is asking our voters to consider increasing our Fire Levy rate to \$.68 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is called a Levy Override. The current fire levy rate is \$.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

#### 2. What an Increased Levy Would Fund?

MKI Fire will be able to ensure sustainable funding for:

- Adding additional Volunteer Firefighter EMTs.
- Pay stipend to Volunteer Firefighters working shifts.
- Add Resident Program.
- Maintain and Enhance Firefighter and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training. EMS responses account for 76% of our total incidents.
- Replace aging equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, communications, and personal protective equipment.
- Maintain and work to improve our current Idaho State Rating Bureau (ISRB) Insurance Rating.

#### 3. What will this cost?

- If approved by voters, the Levy Override would increase the Fire Levy to \$.68 per \$1000 of assessed property value which is a \$.39 cents per \$1,000 increase (or approximately \$12.11 per month for the owner of a \$500,000 home).
- Idaho Statute 63-802(1)(h) limits the Fire District to a 3% revenue increase per year. Due to the 3% limit, most taxpayers are paying less to the Fire Levy each year as property values increase. The amount collected by the Fire District is not keeping up with the cost of inflation.

#### 4. Why is MKI Fire asking for a Levy Override?

- MKI Fire has seen significant increases in emergency responses with more than a 312% increase** over the last ten years (2010-2021). The unbalance of levy funding, increase in 911 call volume, and increase in operating expenses are why we are asking our voters to consider this Levy Override.
- MKI Fire currently funds roughly 66% of our daily operational needs through our Fire Levy, 30% from our savings account and 4% from KCEMSS (Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System). Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022 we took \$32,997.84 out of savings for vehicle maintenance, and in Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 we have currently used \$23,420.43 out of savings for vehicle maintenance. The Levy Override is for our Fire Levy, it stays in our community. **The result will be a more financially secure fire department** able to continue services to our community in the manner they have become accustomed to.
- Levies are the primary funding source for fire and emergency services** provided in the Fire District. Levies pay for staffing, equipment, operating expenses, structure, and wildland fire suppression, advanced EMT's, fire prevention, and other essential services to our citizens.

#### 5. What if the Levy Override doesn't Pass?

**If the Levy Override does not pass on the May 16, 2023, Election** MKI Fire will continue operations, however MKI Fire's current fire and emergency medical services levels cannot be maintained, and replacement of aging vehicles is not possible with existing revenues. The Fire Levy requires a supermajority (66 2/3%) to pass.

#### 6. What is Mica Kidd Island Fire District doing to make tax dollars stretch further?

MKI Fire has strong management and financial practices, passing all State of Idaho financial audits. The district is always seeking grant opportunities to supplement daily operations.