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South Kitsap levy vote for fire and rescue will benefit the community

Mitch Thorsen, South Kitsap Professional Firefighters Local 2876

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We want to thank the Board of Commissioners of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue for placing a fire levy lid lift on the November ballot. We require more firefighters to respond to increasing call volumes and emergency calls that happen at the same time.

We had eight house fires in June. Fires require almost all firefighters on shift to respond – some to put out the fire and others to treat medical issues from smoke and/or burns. Three times during these fire calls another call came in for a medical emergency. It took us almost 30 minutes to respond to two of these calls. For the third call, we had to rely on an ambulance from the hospital.

Our community deserves better. The lid lift would fund another engine and medic unit in service 24-hours a day to respond to multiple calls.

Our job is to save lives and property. We feel every loss personally and it cuts deep. We hope our community will give the lid lift consideration on November 8.

Mitch Thorsen, president, South Kitsap Professional Firefighters Local 2876