

# **KLAMATH 9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT**

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**February 20, 2014  
Press Release**

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At the Klamath 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District, Board of Directors meeting held on February 19, 2014, the Board of Directors passed a resolution to submit to the voter's of Klamath County the question of funding an initiative to levy up to \$0.08 per \$1000 assessed property value for the purpose of establishing an operating fund for Klamath 9-1-1 for a period of five years. For a home valued at \$250,000 that's \$20.00 per year. This measure is part of the Districts strategic plan and will be presented on the ballot for the primary election held on May 20, 2014.

The District's current funding allows for just two dispatcher/call takers for the entire county at any given time, there are not enough funds to add staffing during busier times of the day. The center averages 287 phone calls, 893 radio transmissions and 3300 computer messages per day. The dispatchers regularly are required to answer radio traffic at the same time they are taking phone calls and reading or typing in computer messages. The computer and radio systems the dispatchers utilized were grant funded over the last 8 years. The district is responsible for maintaining that equipment and replacing it as it ages, but the districts equipment reserves have been depleted.

This levy will enable the District to increase the staffing during busier times of the day by funding up to six new employees, thus allowing the center to meet minimum requirements based upon national standards. It will also provide the appropriate maintenance and replacement of equipment by replenishing the District reserves.

The plan was presented to our Advisory Committee in January, at which time Klamath Falls Police Chief Jim Hunter said that the center should be staffing 3 dispatchers at all times. It was presented to the Klamath County Fire Defense Board at their January meeting, resulting in the fire chiefs of Klamath County writing a letter to our Board of Directors in support of the plan and it's funding through this operating levy.