

News Release

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Staff Recommends Levy Contingency Plan to Fire Board

Layoffs, increased response times, and an end to paramedic service

The Board of Commissioners for Clark County Fire District 6 has received a contingency plan from senior level staff that could be implemented if the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy is not renewed by voters. The EMS levy renewal will be on the August 17, 2010 Primary Election ballot for residents who receive fire and emergency medical service in the communities of Hazel Dell, Salmon Creek, Mt. Vista, Felida, Sherwood, Lakeshore, and Fairgrounds.

Fire District 6 has received 2,464 emergency calls as of June 30, 2010. Of that number, 2,177 – or 88.4% – were for emergency medical service. In 2011, the EMS levy is projected to account for \$2.7-million or 27% of Fire District 6’s operating budget. If the levy fails, and the contingency plan is implemented, the District will stop providing Advanced Life Support/paramedic care and cut 13 emergency responder positions along with additional administrative staff. The plan is contingent on approval by the Commissioners and career firefighters, but it is the recommendation of the Fire Chief, senior staff, and firefighter team leaders.

Laying-off firefighter/paramedics will result in increased response times and a reduced level of emergency medical care from Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Basic Life Support (BLS). Paramedics are trained to provide ALS care in a medical emergency, which includes minor procedures and administering life-saving medications. BLS is administered by Emergency Medical Technicians who cannot establish IVs, administer medication and are limited to external procedures only. (See boxes.)

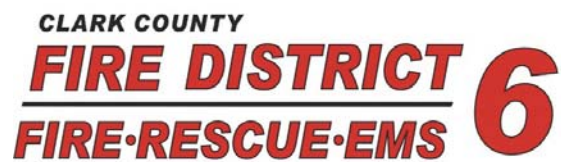
What is the difference between ALS and BLS?

Advanced Life Support (ALS)	Basic Life Support (BLS)
Care provided by Paramedics, with 1,500 hours of training	Care provided by Emergency Medical Technicians with 110 hours of training
Establish IV’s and administer life-saving medications	Can NOT establish IVs, or administer medication
Tracheal intubations and new airways in the neck	Limited to external procedures only
Diagnose heart rhythms, increasing chance of early recovery from heart attack or stroke	Serves as support for Paramedic

“EMS is the most requested emergency service we offer and represents nearly 90-percent of our emergency responses,” said Fire Chief Jerry Green. “No one likes to think about what will happen if the levy fails, but it’s important to be prepared.”

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The Fire Chief, senior staff and firefighter team leaders developed the EMS Contingency Plan with the intention to retain as many emergency responders as possible. The complete report can be found under 'Latest News' at www.ccf6.org.

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