



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Oct. 13, 2025

**Contact:** Fire Chief Tom Salsbury  
Adams County Fire District 5  
509-488-2951  
tsalsbury@acfd5.com

---

**Adams County Fire District #5 to host Q&A sessions on fire levy**  
*Community invited to learn about short-term funding proposal*

OTHELLO, Wash. — Adams County Fire District #5 will host two public meetings to share information about the fire levy lid lift that will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot. Each session will begin with a brief presentation by Fire Chief Tom Salsbury and Fire Commissioner Peter Anderson, followed by time for community questions.

Meetings will be held on **Wednesday, October 22 at 6 p.m.** and **Saturday, October 25 at 9 a.m.** at the station at 220 S. Broadway in Othello.

The proposal would help the district maintain emergency services as call volumes rise and costs continue to increase. Over the past four years, emergency calls have climbed 25% across the district and 43% within the City of Othello. The city's contract for fire protection services—which provides more than half of the district's annual revenue—expires in May 2026, creating a significant funding gap.

At the same time, expenses for fuel, medical supplies, protective gear, and firefighter wages have all gone up. To help bridge these challenges, the district is proposing a levy lid lift of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For the owner of a home valued at \$222,000, that's about \$5 more per month.

"These Q&A sessions are a chance for residents to understand what's at stake and ask questions directly," said Fire Chief Tom Salsbury. "Our goal is to be transparent about our needs and how we're working to sustain essential services."

For more information about the levy, visit [acfd5.com/fire-levy-lid-lift](http://acfd5.com/fire-levy-lid-lift) or call 509-488-2951.

###

*Adams County Fire District 5 provides fire suppression, rescue, and wildland fire services to over 7,600 residents across 215 square miles in the heart of the Columbia basin. The district also serves the City of Othello, home to 7,000 residents, through a contract for service in place through 2026. Five full-time*

*and 21 volunteer personnel respond to a range of emergencies with professionalism and pride. Learn more at [www.acfd5.com](http://www.acfd5.com).*