

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LOUDOUN COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD and  
LOUDOUN COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD AUXILIARY  
RELEASE ON FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TAX DISTRICT**

LEESBURG, VA – As you open your first half property tax bill, you may be wondering as to where all of your taxes are going. There is now a line item on your tax statement that is called FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TAX DISTRICT. ***This is not a new tax for Loudoun County!*** ***You have been paying this line item tax for years. However, this is the first time that it has been disclosed to you as to how your tax monies are being spent.*** The option to enforce this code was done by the Board of Supervisors for FY08 under Code of Virginia 27-23.1. which states:

“The governing bodies of the several cities or counties of the Commonwealth may create and establish, by designation on a map of the city or county showing current official parcel boundaries, or by any other description which is legally sufficient for the conveyance of property or the creation of parcels, fire/EMS zones or districts in such cities or counties, within which may be located and established one or more fire/EMS departments, to be equipped with apparatus for fighting fires and protecting property and human life within such zones or districts from loss or damage by fire, illness or injury.

To raise funds for the purposes aforesaid, the governing body of any city or county in which such zones or districts are established may levy annually a tax on the assessed value of all property real and personal within such zones or districts, subject to local taxation, which tax shall be extended and collected as other city or county taxes are extended and collected.”

According to the Loudoun County Government FY 2008 Fiscal Plan, this was created based on the recommendation of a study done by EMSSTAR Group in October 2001. Such a tax should be imposed on the city/county residence. This tax is calculated by taking the total assessed value of your property and dividing it by \$100.00. Each \$100.00 is then multiplied by \$0.043.

This tax will be placed in a special revenue fund. These funds may be spent on the following:

- Facilities and technology infrastructure support;
- Repayment of debt on the purchase of fire apparatus;
- Renovation and construction of County fire stations;
- Support fire and rescue communications operations that were once covered by E-911; and,
- Aid to the volunteer fire and rescue companies.

These monies will be spent on County salaries, improvements/upgrades to the local 911 system, paying to build and equip new County-owned fire stations, upgrades to the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Facility to train both paid and volunteer personnel, and also to support Recruitment and Retention efforts.

Approximately 50 percent of our volunteer rescue squad’s annual budget comes from county funds, along with additional support from the Town of Leesburg. Frankly, these county funds are not a major increase from previous years. The difference is made up by you, the residents of Leesburg and its surrounding areas, with your generous donations.

The average volunteer member spends about 24 - 48 hours a month serving his/her community. This is in addition to their family roles and responsibilities, work, and long hours of training. As a volunteer, we do not get paid for the time we volunteer. We do this because we care. As our population grows, so do the demands from our citizens.

Can you imagine what your tax bill would be like if you had to fund a total “Paid” system? People move into this area and do not realize that we are both paid and volunteer.

As you can see, that small amount has to go a long way to do so many things. By the time it reaches us, there is not a lot left.

By now you should have received our brochure in the mail. The brochure provides you with just a sample of what we do and why we need your additional funding. Please take the time to open up your checkbooks or to call in your credit card number and make an additional donation to our organization. If you cannot make a donation at this time, we will still be there for you when you need us. Help fight higher taxes – donate now! You may obtain additional information on our Web site [www.loudounrescue.org](http://www.loudounrescue.org).

**“Bet Your Life We’re There!”**