

SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
Lopez Island Fire and EMS Department
2228 Fisherman Bay Road
Lopez Island, WA 98261



February 18th, 2025

Lopez Island Fire and EMS Has Taken Extra Steps to Safeguard Your Rights

Due to recent changes within the federal government pertaining to immigration enforcement, Lopez Island Fire and EMS has instituted some changes. These changes are administrative decisions based on feedback from district personnel and community members. These changes will hopefully alleviate some of the fear that comes with calling 911.

- Lopez Island Fire and EMS will no longer be tracking race or ethnicity within its medical documentation. While this information has only been used as raw data for tracking quality assurance, it does not impact services and has been identified as a possible barrier to care. We do not track these items anywhere else in our documentation.
- Lopez Island Fire and EMS volunteer personnel, who work for the San Juan County Sheriffs office as their primary employment, will no longer respond to EMS calls to assist while in their police uniforms or in police vehicles. There are some EMS calls where a police response is required or **lifesaving care** can be given by Lopez Island Deputies such as CPR, these incidents are pre-determined and not up to the individual responders to decide. We understand that having a uniformed officer on the scene of an EMS call can be jarring, if you ever feel uncomfortable **for any reason**, please let the EMS personnel know, and they can attempt to alleviate this stress.
- Every person in our organization signs a confidentiality agreement. This agreement prohibits the sharing of any information or use of any information obtained, on any incident, for any other reason than rendering aid. Any violation of this agreement will result in corrective action up to and including termination of employment.

Lopez Island Fire and EMS is here to serve the residents and visitors of Lopez Island. We want to do everything we can to make sure that immigration concerns do not stop you from seeking help. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Chief Bigby at (360)468-2991 or abigby@lopezfire.com.

Adam Bigby, Fire Chief

(360)468-2991