



Key Largo Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services District

P. O. Box 371023, Key Largo, FL 33037

To Our Residents:

DID YOU KNOW?

The taxpayers of Monroe County will be asked to pay for the operation of Trauma Star on the ballot November 4th, 2008?

WE ARE SENDING THIS TO YOU BECAUSE

The 1st and MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE is PATIENT CARE--The Golden Hour is the all-important first hour after injury when lives can be saved and serious disability lessened when treated by the proper specialists. The Upper Keys Health Care Taxing District (UKHCTD) has written agreements that guarantee immediate acceptance and transfer with Miami-Dade Air-Rescue and Life Net to transport trauma-alert patients (residents and tourists) to Ryder Trauma Center and Miami Children's Hospitals.

The 2nd ISSUE IS THE COST OF REDUNDANCY--The Keys are and can continue to be efficiently served with existing helicopters based in South Miami-Dade County and Key West. These three (3) aircraft/services are available ON-DEMAND; with NO annual operating costs (personnel, fuel, supplies) and NO periodic capital investments (helicopter replacement).

The 3rd ISSUE IS FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY--This is an UNNECESSARY TAX because Miami-Dade & Life Net Air Ambulance services are available at NO COST to the KLFR&EMS District or the UKHCT District. The residents will pay for service three (3) times:

- 1st) With the taxes paid by residents into the UKHCT District.
- 2nd) All residents' and tourists' insurance companies are billed for air-ambulance service. The UKHCT District is the payer of last resort for trauma patients, who do not have insurance or any other means of payment, and
- 3rd) When the NEW TAX is imposed.

Which county residents are included in the Upper Keys Health Care Taxing District?
The UKHCT District covers residents from Mile Marker 65 North to the County Line including Ocean Reef and has rarely been used to transport UKHCT District residents or tourists.

When will this new proposed special Trauma Star tax expire? There is no expiration date for the NEW Trauma Star Ad Valorem Tax. There is NO "sunset" clause. These services are provided FREE for UKHCT District residents and tourists!

BEFORE YOU VOTE . . . ASK YOURSELF?

How much does it cost to operate Trauma Star? The annual Trauma Star operation cost is approximately \$1,800,000 per year in excess of the revenues collected from user service fees.

An additional concern is--Who will manage the Trauma Star Fund and where will the funds go? NO Oversight Board or Committee has been established to maintain and monitor the tax funds for Trauma Star; and a special fund has not been established to prevent these funds from being used for other county purposes.

Do the UKHCT District residents NEED Trauma Star as the primary trauma helicopter? NO! There are currently two (2) aircraft responding to the Upper Keys from Miami with service on demand at "NO" Additional Cost" to KLFR&EMS District or the UKHCT District residents.

The "BOTTOM LINE" is . . .

This is a NEW TAX for the residents of the Upper Keys Health Care Taxing District!

For additional information, please contact KLFR&EMS Commissioner, Tom Tharp at 853-6198 or visit the KLFR&EMS District website at www.klfirems.org to obtain a copy of Resolution #222-2008 and the Notice of Adoption of Resolution.