

# ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Spring 2018



## Chief's Corner

*By Fire Chief Noel Hardin*

I want to start this edition of our newsletter by saying thank you for supporting Asotin County Fire District 1. We rely on volunteers from the community to respond to calls, and your tax dollars to give us the apparatus, equipment, supplies and facilities we need to save lives and property.

Speaking of facilities, our station renovation project is facing some challenges that we want to share with you. If you will recall, we purchased a property a few years ago with the intent to renovate an existing structure to serve as a larger fire station.

We have been paying cash for architectural plans and site development. We also secured a grant for \$750,000 to aid in the renovation costs. However, the grant was \$250,000 less than we had requested.

In 2017, our voters approved a fire levy lid lift to finish the station project, replace equipment and apparatus, and purchase items for live fire training. When bids were opened, the lowest one came in at \$1.1 million higher than the fire district's budget for station renovations.

A strong economy has led to a construction boom across the state, which is driving up construction costs for many capital projects like our fire station. Our goal is not to ask you for more money to complete the station. As a result, the Board of Fire Commissioners rejected all bids. We will work with our architect and engineering firms to reduce the scope of work and likely break it into two phases to be rebid. Funding will be set aside until new bids are received.

On the plus side, we are moving forward with the apparatus and equipment replacement program funded by the lid lift. For example, we will begin saving to purchase a new replacement engine in the next decade with cash from the lid lift, which means we save taxpayers money compared to financing. The fire district also is replacing all its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) for firefighters that are no longer supported by the manufacturer. We've applied for a American Firefighter Grant in the amount of \$250,000 to pay for these units and should know soon.

We will complete the projects that we can afford and thank you for supporting our efforts. Please feel free to contact me with questions at [nhardin@acfd1.org](mailto:nhardin@acfd1.org) or (509) 758-5181.

## EMS Week 2018 - May 20-26

Every May, we take a week to recognize Emergency Medical Service. EMS is the emergency service that our community relies on most—about 90 percent of all calls. This year, we would like to share some helpful information about when to call 9-1-1 for EMS.

You might not know this, but when a person dials 9-1-1, an ambulance must respond to the call. If the call is not a true medical emergency, it could increase the amount of time it takes for a life-threatening emergency to be responded to. Sometimes 9-1-1 calls are for medical situations that could be addressed at home with a First Aid kit, or with a trip to the doctor or local urgent care center.

If ever in doubt though, do call 9-1-1! Please call 9-1-1 immediately for any life-threatening medical problems. These include chest pain; choking; difficulty speaking; drowning; numbness in face, arms, or legs; poisoning; sudden intense pain; heavy, uncontrollable bleeding; severe burns or broken bones; or a suicide threat.

EMS for Fire District 1 is funded by a levy that provides Basic Life Support with volunteer firefighters/emergency medical technicians, and Advanced Life Support with paramedics through a cost-effective partnership with the city of Lewiston. Thank you to the community for their continued support of this critical emergency service!



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## Stay in touch!

Have you checked out Asotin County Fire District 1's website ([www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org)) yet? If you're on Facebook, please "Like"



our page at [www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1](http://www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1) to receive regular updates about your fire district!

# Preparing for Wildland Fire Season

Asotin County Fire District 1 is encouraging property owners in vulnerable areas to prepare for wildland fire season by creating a defensible space around buildings in case a fire should occur.

Doing a little Spring Cleaning in the yard? This is the perfect time to create a fire barrier to your home and outbuildings by removing potential fuel for a fire before the long, hot and dry days of summer and fall arrive.

A few things you can do out in your yard are:

- Keep landscaping and lawns well-watered.
- Remove dead vegetation near or under the house.
- Eliminate any combustibles, such as stored boxes, stacked newspapers or firewood, or even green plants that can burn easily, like ivy, from the perimeter of any structure.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.



More tips are available by calling Fire District 1 at 509-758-5181 or from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at [www.ready.gov/wildfires](http://www.ready.gov/wildfires).