

ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Spring 2017



Chief's Corner

By Fire Chief Noel Hardin

It has been a busy year for Asotin County Fire District 1 and it's only May! Call volumes have been steadily climbing since 2011—up 13% in six years.

Our ability to respond to emergencies fast and effectively is because of your support. Fire District 1 is a largely volunteer organization. That means your friends, family members and neighbors give their time as firefighters and EMTs, which saves us an estimated \$1 million in personnel costs per year. We couldn't afford to deliver this level of service without the community behind us.

To show our thanks, we would like you to join us for an Open House on Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the home of our future fire station, 2314 Appleside Boulevard. We will have some great activities for the kids, safety demonstrations, as well as refreshments for the adults. This is just one more way we can say thank you!

Our Open House kicks off National EMS Week (May 21-27, 2017), which raises awareness for the important role emergency medical service plays in saving lives. Voters in Fire District 1 renewed their EMS levy last year, and we appreciate you partnering with us on this program.

Emergency services also are funded with a fire levy. Our Board of Fire Commissioners will consider asking voters to return the fire levy from \$0.72 to \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value – the same amount it was in 1995. Funding would be used to replace aging apparatus and equipment, as well as finish our station project.

This would be an additional \$5.66 per month (\$68 per year) for the owner of a \$200,000 home. The fire levy is not a new tax, and would be the first time in history that voters would be asked to approve a lid lift.

The Board will hold a few meetings later this summer before voting whether or not to place the fire levy lid lift on the ballot this fall. In the meantime, feel free to send me your thoughts at (509) 758-5181 or nhardin@acfd1.org. Thank you!

Architect Selected for Station Project

Brotnov Architecture & Planning from Clarkston, Wash. was selected to design plans to renovate a former church into a fire station. Fire District 1 purchased the building and property with plans to develop a facility that would serve the needs of the community for the next 60 years.

The project is on track for a 2018 completion date despite a few challenges. First, the entire flat roof had to be replaced when the membrane failed, costing an unexpected \$60,000. In addition, the state and federal permitting process associated with the project has taken longer than anticipated. Fire District 1 also received less than it anticipated in grant funding for the renovations, which is making public funding necessary to complete the project.

Despite these issues, the facility still represents a good investment for fire district taxpayers. The building and land are valued at more than Fire District 1 paid. In addition, renovating an existing building will save taxpayers an anticipated \$3 million when compared to buying new. The district also is paying cash for such things as architectural services and permitting to reduce the amount of public funding that is needed.

Fire District 1 has needed a larger station for some time to improve its emergency response capabilities. New stations are expensive, and the goal has been to minimize costs for taxpayers as the project moves forward.



ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

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our page at www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1 to receive regular updates about your fire district!

Annual Open House

Join Us for National EMS Week!

Fire District 1 is kicking off National Emergency Medical Service Week with an Open House for friends and families at the future home of its new fire station at 2377 Appleside Boulevard. Festivities will kick off on Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

National Emergency Medical Service Week (May 21-27, 2017) brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day life-saving services of medicine's "front line." It began in 1974 by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and President Gerald Ford.

Bring the kids for a host of safety programs, demonstrations and a visit from our Safe-T-Rex mascot. Ambulances and fire trucks will be on display, as well.

We also will have firefighters on hand to share their experience as a volunteer for Fire District 1. Join our



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Only a few positions available.
Get your application now!**

family as a firefighter and/or emergency medical technician, and learn how great it is to give back to your community!