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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Asotin County Fire District 1 holds meetings to share information on EMS Levy renewal**

Clarkston, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 is holding two public meetings to share information about its levy renewal for Emergency Medical Service on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election ballot. In 2015, EMS accounted for 90 percent of all calls for the fire district.

Community members are invited and encouraged to attend a meeting to learn about the EMS program or ask questions about the levy that funds these services. The meetings will be held on July 12 (5:00 p.m.) and July 21 (12 noon) at the fire station at 2314 Appleside Boulevard, Clarkston, Wash. 99403.

Fire District 1 is the only fire district in Asotin County to guarantee a fire and EMS response 24-hours a day. It also has the lowest levy rate for fire protection and EMS of any provider in the county.

EMS calls have increased almost 38% for the fire district since voters first approved funding for the program in 2011. The EMS levy helps pay for emergency personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

Fire District 1 provides Advanced Life Support with paramedics through a cost-effective partnership with the city of Lewiston. This is the highest level of pre-hospital, emergency care available for the public. It also provides Basic Life Support with volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Volunteers donate their time to the community, which saves taxpayers approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

Fire District 1 is asking voters to renew the EMS levy at the same rate (50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value) during the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election and remove the expiration date. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would continue to pay \$100 per year or approximately \$8.33 per month for a 24-hour paramedic response.

A permanent EMS levy will stabilize funding for the service and help the fire district plan long-term for the program. It also will save money on election costs, which can be as much as \$25,000 every time the agency needs to be on the ballot. The Board of Fire Commissioners feel that money would better serve the community by funding life-saving equipment or personnel.

More information about the EMS levy renewal is available on Fire District 1's web site at [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org) or its Facebook page at /asotincountyfd1. Fire Chief Noel Hardin is also available to answer questions at (509) 758-5181 or [nhardin@acfd1.org](mailto:nhardin@acfd1.org).

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*Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical service (EMS), river rescue, oil spill response and wildland fire protection to 14,000 people over 120 square miles of land and 35 miles of shoreline. Thirty-two volunteer firefighters, 28 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 35 paramedics (through a partnership with Lewiston) respond to an average of 2,600 calls per year. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state. Learn more about Asotin County Fire District 1 by visiting their web site [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org) or Facebook page /asotincountyfd1.*