

ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Summer/Fall 2015

Chief's Corner

The year is flying by so quickly! I'm thankful for our community and the continued support we receive as your fire district. At Asotin County Fire District 1 we have been busy working on projects to stay prepared to provide an emergency response to our citizens.

One of our ongoing projects is equipment maintenance and replacement. Whenever possible, we work to access funding available for fire districts that reduces costs for our taxpayers. We recently received a grant to purchase a new ambulance and expect to take delivery of the response vehicle at the end of August. We'll also be receiving a new fire engine in July that we saved and budgeted for as an expense in 2015. Saving the money and paying cash for big purchases instead of borrowing money with interest is another way we save our taxpayers money.



Live fire training at Hammer Training Center

Just recently we sent eight new volunteer recruits to the Hammer Training Center in Richland, Wash.. They trained with other recruits from

City of Clarkston Fire, City of Asotin Fire and Wheatland Fire District to practice live fire training and search and rescue techniques.

The main priority for Fire District 1 and our Board of Fire Commissioners is moving the new station project forward. The first step is to receive County approval. Then, in order to qualify for grant funds to help build the new station, we need to demonstrate that Asotin is a low-to-medium income county. You can read more about it on the back page, but I'd like to ask our citizens to please be on the lookout for a wage survey and please respond. It could be helpful in leveraging grant funds to complete this project.

Also, a quick reminder—this is expected to be an early and long wildland fire season. Please make sure your home is clear of any clutter or vegetation that could provide fuel for a fire. It creates a defensible space for firefighters to fight wildfire. For more information, please visit www.ready.gov/wildfires.

If you have questions or comments about your fire district, please feel free to contact me directly at (509) 758-5181 or acfd1@cableone.net. We always like to hear from the people we serve!

Thank you,
NOEL HARDIN
Fire Chief



Giving Back to the Community

Andrew Puhl wasn't planning on being a volunteer firefighter. He was interested in giving back to his community and just happened to visit Fire District 1's station. After talking to Fire Chief Noel Hardin last fall, he joined the 2015 Recruitment Class for new volunteer firefighters.

Admittedly, it takes a lot of time and dedication to become a volunteer firefighter. In addition to working 12-hour shifts at a full-time job at Orbital ATK, Andrew invests time each week training and responding to emergency calls from the fire station.

And, it's clear to anyone who asks him that he loves the work. "I knew there would be camaraderie, and I expected it to be a close-knit family like experience, but it's even more

then just that, it's an incredible bond," said Puhl. "When we were at the Hammer Training Center recently, the training was the hardest thing I'd ever done. It's amazing to discover what you are capable of and to have your firefighter family encouraging you on."

Puhl tells everyone he knows about what a great opportunity it is to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter. The best thing is that he's surrounded by people who are willing to put others first. Helping save lives feels good—just ask him!

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Chief Hardin at (509) 758-5181 for available opportunities.

**Asotin County
FIRE DISTRICT 1**



**Noel Hardin, Fire Chief
Mike Hohman, Assistant Chief**

- Nick Bacon**
- Danielle Benton**
- Abby Bridgewater**
- Nick Broemeling**
- Chris Cook**
- Greg Craber**
- Bill Derbonne**
- Jim Dickinson**
- Jeff Dietrich**
- Mindy Frisbee**
- Teresa Gilbert**
- Jeff Hardin**
- Rick Hays**
- Greg Heimgartner**
- Bill Hendrix**
- John Hilderbrand**
- Jerid Hilderbrand**
- Bill Jenkins**
- Kelly Kinzer**
- Rick Laws**
- Andrew Lemon**
- Kelly Miller**
- Dann Miller**
- E.J. Norman**
- Tyrell Poggemeyer**
- Kody Portlock**
- Andrew Puhl**
- Kevin Reynolds**
- Ryan Rhodes**
- Brady Schertenleib**
- Riley Spooner**
- Roby Spooner**
- Jackye Squire**
- Scott Stoll**
- Mark Swift**
- Jennifer Treib**
- Gavin Triplett**
- Keith Weissenfels**
- Paul Wik**
- James Wotring**



ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

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Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-5181



We'd like to wish everyone
a safe and happy
Fourth of July!

If you are celebrating with
fireworks, please use
precaution to prevent injury
or fire damage. Tips to stay
safe can be found at
[www.safekids.org/tip/
fireworks-safety-tips!](http://www.safekids.org/tip/fireworks-safety-tips!)

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Progress on New Fire Station

Fire District 1 purchased property with an existing building (also on Appleside Boulevard) last summer to be the future home of our fire station. This multi-year project will provide the space we need for apparatus, equipment, training, and firefighters for the next 60 years.

Fire District 1 was able to purchase the property without raising taxes. Now, the district and is working to secure funding to remodel the building. The Board of Fire Commissioners has said that keeping expenses reasonable and minimizing costs for taxpayers is a priority. In addition to saving \$2-3 million by renovating an existing building instead of building new, Fire District 1 is planning to apply for a Community Development Block Grant. Competition is steep, and there are no guarantees – but we're trying! Voter-approved funding might be necessary, depending on interest rates, design, construction, and material costs when the project is ready to be built.

The first step is securing approval from Asotin County for Fire District 1's grant application, hopefully in 2015. If approval is received, the next step will be for citizens to complete a wage survey to show that Asotin County is a low-to-medium income county and would qualify for funding. If you receive a survey, please respond to help your fire district apply for grant funding. Finally, the district will purchase architectural design services to create detailed plans to submit with the grant application, as well as hire a grant writer to aid us in this process.

Our goal is to submit the grant application in July 2016, and it can take up to a year to receive a response. This process takes a few years, but our Board of Fire Commissioners want to exhaust all other resources before considering asking voters to fund the station renovation. In the meantime, the purchased building is rented and also used by Fire District 1 for training and meeting space.