

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open House and Groundbreaking Planned for New Station on Saturday August 18

CLARKSTON, WASH. – Saturday, August 18 will be an exciting day for Asotin County Fire District 1 and the community. The fire district is holding its annual Open House and plans to break ground on the first phase to renovate an existing property it owns to serve as a larger fire station for the community.

Festivities kick off at 11:00 a.m. and will run through 1:00 p.m. at 2377 Appleside Boulevard, Clarkston, WA 99403. The ground breaking will take place at 11:15 a.m. during the event. The public is encouraged to attend, tour the new facility, view the architectural plans, and enjoy refreshments provided by the fire district.

Firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics will be on hand to answer questions and provide tours of Fire District 1's equipment and apparatus. There will be fire engines, a rescue boat, ambulances, and equipment on hand for kids of all ages. Fire District 1 will provide free blood pressure checks and safety demonstrations.

There also will be architectural drawings of the new fire station that was funded through a \$750,000 grant and voter-approved fire levy lid lift. The facility will accommodate volunteers, apparatus and equipment for Fire District 1 for the next 50 years. The station also will serve as a training facility for firefighters and provide community meeting space.

"This is an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to our community for supporting the fire district and the station renovation project," said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. "We couldn't save lives and property without their support and we want people to know that we are grateful."

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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 <u>www.acfd1.org</u> or Facebook page /asotincountyfd1.