



2314 Appleside Boulevard
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-5181
acfd1@cableone.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 13, 2016
Contact: Chief Noel Hardin, Asotin County Fire District 1
Office (509) 758-5181 Cell (208) 790-3379 nhardin@acfd1.org

Fire District 1 celebrates Emergency Medical Service Week

Public invited to Open House on May 21

Clarkston, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 invites the public to an Open House on Saturday, May 21 in celebration of Emergency Medical Service Week. The event brings awareness to the important role EMS programs and emergency personnel play in saving lives in their communities.

The Open House will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the fire station, 2314 Appleside Boulevard, Clarkston, Wash. 99403. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics will be on hand to answer questions and provide tours of Fire District 1's equipment and apparatus.

"EMS is the emergency service that our community relies on most," said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. "It's critical to the health, safety and well-being of our community."

Fire District 1 responded to 2,626 calls for help in 2015 – 90% of which were EMS-related. Calls for EMS have increased almost 38% since voters first passed the EMS levy in 2011. Fire District 1 is the only fire district in the county to guarantee a fire and EMS response 24-hours a day.

The EMS levy 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. Funding pays for emergency personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

Fire District 1 funds the EMS program through a voter-approved levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The Board of Fire Commissioners is asking voters to renew the levy during the August Primary Election at the same rate and to 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.

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

###

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 – 90% of which are EMS-related. Learn more about Asotin County Fire District 1 by visiting their web site (www.acfd1.org) or Facebook page ([asotincountyfd1](https://www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1)).