



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 30, 2016  
Contact: Chief Noel Hardin, Asotin County Fire District 1  
Office (509) 758-5181 Cell (208) 790-3379 [nhardin@acfd1.org](mailto:nhardin@acfd1.org)

**Fire commissioners hold public meetings on EMS levy renewal**

*90% of all calls in 2015 were EMS-related*

Clarkston, Wash. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Asotin County Fire District 1 will hold two public meetings to consider a resolution asking voters to renew a levy for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) on the August 2, 2016 Primary Election ballot.

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.

“EMS is our most widely-used emergency service,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “It’s important that we share information about how funding for the program saves lives in our community.”

The first meeting will be held Wednesday, April 6 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the new facility (2377 Appleside Blvd., Clarkston, WA 99403). On Tuesday, April 12, the second meeting will be held as part of the regular board meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the fire station (2314 Appleside Blvd., Clarkston, WA 99403). Fire commissioners will vote on the resolution placing the EMS levy renewal on the August ballot at the second meeting.

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.

If approved by voters, the EMS levy would continue funding at 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay \$100 per year or approximately \$8.33 per month for a 24-hour paramedic response. 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 will expire if not approved by voters, and fire commissioners will consider removing the expiration date. A permanent EMS levy would provide a stable funding source, and save money on elections, which can cost as much as \$25,000 every time the fire district needs to be on the ballot. This money would better serve the community by funding life-saving equipment or emergency personnel.

The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposal. Those unable to attend the meetings are encouraged to mail their comments to Fire Chief Noel Hardin at 2314 Appleside Blvd., Clarkston, WA 99403 or email him at [nhardin@acfd1.org](mailto: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](http://www.acfd1.org)) or Facebook page ([/asotincountyfd1](https://www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1)).*