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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Contact:** Fire Chief Noel Hardin  
Asotin County Fire District 1  
509-758-5181  
nhardin@asotincountywa.gov

**EMS levy renewal on August ballot**  
*Community invited to Q&A events to learn more*

CLARKSTON, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 is asking voters to consider renewing its emergency medical services (EMS) levy in the August 5, 2025, primary election. The proposal would restore the levy rate to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value—the same rate voters approved in 2016—and provide critical funding for EMS personnel, equipment, and supplies.

To help residents learn more, the district will host two public Q&A sessions featuring a brief presentation and time for questions:

- Wednesday, July 23, 6:30 p.m., at the station (2377 Appleside Blvd., Clarkston)
- Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m., at Kenzie's Koffee (111 Filmore St., Asotin)

EMS calls now make up more than 90% of the district's emergency responses. As call volumes increase, so do the costs for staffing, ambulances, equipment, and medical supplies—all of which have risen sharply with inflation.

Since the levy was last set at \$0.50 in 2016, the rate has dropped to \$0.36 due to the state's 1% cap on annual property tax revenue increases. This reduced amount is no longer sufficient to meet growing service demands.

Renewing the EMS levy would allow the district to hire additional responders to reduce response times, replace aging ambulances to ensure reliability, and purchase life-saving medical equipment such as cardiac monitors and defibrillators.

"This is ultimately about saving lives and improving patient outcomes," said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. "The EMS levy is essential to ensuring we can continue providing rapid, high-quality care when our community needs it most."

If approved, the 14-cent proposal would cost the owner of a \$300,000 property (average in the area) an additional \$3.50 per month—or \$42 annually.

For more information, visit [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org) or contact Asotin County Fire District 1 at 509-758-5181.

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*Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression, emergency medical service, and river rescue to 15,000 people over 120 square miles in the Southeast corner of Washington. ACFD1 is the only fire district in the county to guarantee a fire and EMS response 24-hours a day. The department relies primarily on volunteers to respond to an average of 3,000 calls per year, over 90% of which are EMS-related. Learn more at [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org).*