

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Asotin County Fire District 1 urges caution ahead of July 4 Countywide burn ban takes effect July 5

CLARKSTON, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 is urging residents to celebrate responsibly over the July 4th weekend as extreme fire danger looms across the region. With record-dry conditions and high temperatures in the forecast, fire crews are preparing for a sharp uptick in emergency calls.

"We are extremely dry, and it won't take much to spark a fire," said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. "July 4 should be about fun with family and friends—not emergency room visits or wildfire evacuations. We're expecting to be very busy next week, and we're asking people to help us out by making smart, safe choices."

The warning comes as a countywide burn ban is set to take effect Friday, July 5, prohibiting all outdoor burning, including campfires and consumer fireworks. While personal fireworks are allowed in some areas on July 4, that will change the following day due to elevated fire risk.

To stay safe this holiday weekend:

- Light fireworks only on July 4, where allowed, and never near dry grass or trees
- Keep a hose or water bucket nearby in case of fire
- Fully soak used fireworks before throwing them away
- Skip the campfire and use a gas grill or stove instead
- When in doubt, attend a public fireworks show

For the most current information on fire restrictions in the county, contact Asotin County Fire District 1 at 509-758-5181.

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 <a href="https://www.acfd1.org">www.acfd1.org</a>.