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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Are You Prepared in the Event of a Wildland Fire?

CLARKSTON, WASH. – The County of Asotin declared a total burn ban effective July 16 due to current fire risk conditions. Starting Monday, the burn ban restricts any outdoor fires in unincorporated areas of Asotin County. There are a few exceptions that are allowed: designated fire pits in Chief Timothy Park (island only); approved propane fire rings; and approved propane and charcoal barbecues.

The recent fire nearby in Whitman County was a reminder that now is a good time to prepare in case of a wildland fire threat. Asotin County Fire District 1 would like to share some tips plan for an evacuation with hopes that you'll never need to use them.

“Currently, there are no evacuation orders in Asotin County,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “But now is the time to think through what your family would need to take with them, map out a plan, and consider the needs of any pets or livestock.”

Chief Hardin recommends two web sites for local residents to review that contain information on preparing for a wildland fire, and/or evacuations:

- The Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides excellent information about wildland fire preparedness. Learn more at: www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/wildfire/wildfire-preparedness
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs has prepared a document “Ready, Set, Go: Wildland Fire Action Plan” for homeowners. You can find this resource at: [www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Readysetgo\(1\).pdf](http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Readysetgo(1).pdf).

In the event of an emergency, information will be available on local television stations and radio. It is strongly recommended to have a battery-powered radio or hand-crank powered radio to receive information in case of a power outage.

Asotin County has information on its website too (www.co.asotin.wa.us/emergency-services/preparedness/) for Emergency Preparedness. It recommends that if an evacuation is ordered, you follow the instructions of local officials and use any travel routes that they specify. Take a pre-packed disaster supplies kit with you, including a battery-powered radio to listen for the locations of local emergency shelters. Lock your home when you leave and wear protective clothing, or layers, and sturdy, walkable shoes. If there is time, shut off water, gas and electricity before let others know when you are leaving and where you are headed. Usually pets are not allowed in emergency shelters, so have a plan for their care in advance.

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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 www.acfd1.org or Facebook page @asotincounttyfd1.