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Asotin County Fire District 1 Recognizes EMS Week, May 18–24
Call volume up 50% since voters approved EMS funding in 2016

CLARKSTON, Wash. – May 18–24 is National EMS Week, a nationwide event that honors the lifesaving work of emergency medical service (EMS) professionals. For Asotin County Fire District 1 (ACFD1), it's also an opportunity to highlight the dedication of its volunteer EMS personnel who respond to more than 3,000 calls each year—90% of which are medical emergencies.

“Here at ACFD1, our exceptional EMS team is deeply committed and incredibly hardworking,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “We see their impact every day and are so proud to have them serving our community.”

In addition to recognizing first responders, EMS Week brings attention to the growing challenges facing emergency services. Since voters approved a permanent EMS levy in 2016, EMS call volumes in ACFD1 have increased by 50%. Rising demand, coupled with inflation, has driven up costs for ambulances, medical supplies, and essential equipment.

Meanwhile, the EMS levy rate has dropped to \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed property value—well below the originally approved \$0.50—and is no longer keeping pace with community needs.

To address these challenges, ACFD1 will ask voters to consider an EMS levy renewal during the August 5, 2025 primary election. The proposal would restore the levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 and fund critical needs, including two new ambulances, updated cardiac monitors and defibrillators, essential medical supplies, and additional staffing.

For more information, visit www.acfd1.org or call 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.