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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join us to celebrate EMS Week on May 20!

Public invited to Open House

Clarkston, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 invites the community to celebrate Emergency Medical Service Week during its annual Open House on Saturday, May 20. The event raises awareness about the important role EMS programs and emergency personnel play in saving lives.

The Open House will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m at the home of Fire District 1's new fire station at 2377 Appleside Boulevard, Clarkston, WA 99403. Firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics will be on hand to answer questions and provide tours of Fire District 1's equipment and apparatus.

There will be fire engines, a rescue boat, ambulances, and equipment on hand for kids of all ages. The fire district will provide free blood pressure checks, safety demonstrations and refreshments during the event.

There also will be architectural drawings of the new fire station that is expected to be completed sometime in 2018. This station, funded in part with a \$750,000 grant, will accommodate volunteers, apparatus and equipment for Fire District 1 for the next 50 years. The station will serve as a training facility for firefighters and provide community meeting space, as well.

EMS accounted for 90% of all emergency calls in 2016. Voters renewed the EMS levy last year at the same rate of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

"EMS is the emergency service that our community relies on most," said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. "This Open House is one way we can thank our community for supporting this important life-saving program."

The EMS levy provides Basic and Advanced Life Support with volunteer firefighters/emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. Funding pays for emergency personnel, training and certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

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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 /asotincountyfd1.