



Benton One NEWS

Benton County Fire District #1 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

Message from the Chief

By Fire Chief Lonnie Click



Benton County Fire District #1 has been communicating with residents and businesses about the need to provide emergency medical service. More than half of our calls are EMS-related, and our fire district has grown to the point that we can no longer rely on neighboring agencies. It takes too long to reach our people and drains the resources of neighboring agencies.

I've talked to numerous people about our proposed EMS levy and want to share information again through this newsletter. The EMS levy would fund two ambulances with paramedics trained in advanced life support care. This means we can administer medication for heart attacks and strokes, as well as intubate patients if someone is not breathing.

We don't currently own ambulances, yet 90 percent of our medical calls require transporting a patient to the hospital. Having our own ambulances would reduce emergency response times by as much as seven minutes.

A lot can happen in seven minutes when you're waiting on an ambulance to arrive. During a heart attack, every minute that an emergency response is delayed, the possibility of recovery is reduced 7-10 percent. If someone is having a stroke, lack of blood flow to the brain can cause irreversible damage within six minutes. If someone is bleeding from a major artery or vein, we have six minutes to stop that bleeding before loss of life may occur.

As you may know, I lost my son in an automobile accident some time ago. An ambulance would have reached him faster if the fire district had one, but it would not have changed the outcome. His injuries were too severe and he died.

My point is that we want to have the tools to provide the best possible outcome during an emergency for your family and loved ones. An EMS levy will fund faster ambulance service and the highest level of emergency medical care for our community, which we cannot do right now.

More information about the EMS levy can be found on our website at www.bentonone.org. I'm also available to answer questions at lonnie@bentonone.org or (509) 737-0911. Thank you for considering our request.

Call Volumes & Response Times

Call volumes increased 9.25 percent from 2016 to 2017 (from 1,297 to 1,417). Call volumes are up 21 percent since 2014.

In 2017, medical emergencies accounted for 53.56 percent of all 911 calls, and 90 percent of those require a patient to be transported to an area hospital. How would an EMS levy improve ambulance response times for your family? Take a look:

Community	Current Average Ambulance Response Time [minutes]	Projected Ambulance Response Time (with EMS Levy) [minutes]
West Badger/Dallas	9:12	1:30-4:00
Summitview/Rancho Reata	8:58	2:00-8:00
East Badger/Cottonwood	8:57	3:30-6:00
Clodfelter/Triple Vista	11:53	10:00-12:00
East Kennewick	7:29	5:00-7:30
Central Finley	10:45	1:30-5:00
South Finley	16:11	2:30-7:00



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What's the Difference Between ALS versus BLS Care?



Benton #1 is asking voters to consider a fire levy for emergency medical service of 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That means the average homeowner would pay \$8.33 per month for a 24-hour emergency response providing advanced life support care.

Currently, the fire district provides basic emergency medical care, which allows for procedures outside the body. The EMS levy would provide advanced life support, which means that trained paramedics would be on staff to improve a patient's chance of survival.

Basic Care	Advanced Life Support
Administered by Emergency Medical Technicians with 110 hours of training	Administered by Paramedics with 1,500 hours of training
External procedures only, such as oxygen, glucose, asthma inhalers, splints, and epi pens	Establish IVs and administer medications
	Able to diagnose and treat irregular heart rhythms (EKGs) for heart attacks
	Can create tracheal intubations and new airways in the neck