



# Benton One NEWS

Benton County Fire District #1 NEWSLETTER

Spring-Summer 2017

## Message from the Chief

By Fire Chief Lonnie Click

Thank you for supporting Benton County Fire District 1. Benton 1 is a combination fire department with approximately 90 volunteer, part-time and full-time firefighters serving 17,800 people over 320 square miles. Relying primarily on volunteer firefighters saves our taxpayers money and we are grateful for their service.

Call volumes at Benton 1 have steadily increased over the past 10 years, and it's important that we are able to respond quickly and effectively when you need us. This means planning in advance for personnel, facility and apparatus needs. Some facility upgrades and apparatus can be funded out of our annual operating budget. However, voter-approved funding may be necessary for additional services and large capital projects.

Short-term, we have identified a need to improve our emergency medical service (EMS) program. Currently, 90% of all our EMS calls require patient transportation to area hospitals.

We rely on neighboring fire agencies to provide this service because we cannot fund it out of existing revenue. This is considered "mutual aid" and may take longer to reach you in an emergency. It also impacts the resources our mutual aid partners have to serve their communities.



We want to provide better service for citizens in our fire district, and be a good partner to the other fire agencies around us. That's why Benton 1 is considering asking voters to approve an EMS levy sometime in 2018. Our community will have plenty of opportunity to provide input on this idea as it unfolds.

In the meantime, feel free to contact me with ideas on how we can improve service for your family and business. I can be reached at [lonnie@bentonone.org](mailto:lonnie@bentonone.org) or (509) 737-0911. Thank you.

## Another Clean Audit for Benton 1!

Benton 1 responds to an average of 1,300 calls per year for structural and wildland fire suppression, emergency medical service, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response. Benton 1 funds emergency services through a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which voters renew every six years.

These are your tax dollars we use to save lives and property – and we take that responsibility seriously.

**View our audit results at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>**

We operate under a balanced budget, and have passed all financial and accountability audits with the state

for the past eight years. (You can view our audit results at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.) We aggressively maintain our apparatus, facilities and equipment to extend their usable lives and look for ways to make local tax dollars go further by applying for grants and sharing costs with neighboring agencies.

Benton 1 believes in being transparent and accountable to the communities we serve. Our fire commissioners are elected from the community, and all board meetings are open to the public. We invite you to attend on the 1st or 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am at our administrative office located at 7511 W. Arrowhead Ave. in Kennewick. We hope to see you there!

7511 W. Arrowhead Ave – Suite G  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 737-0911  
[www.bentonone.org](http://www.bentonone.org)

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# EMS Week is May 21-27

## Join Our Team!

National Emergency Medical Service Week (May 21-27, 2017) brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." EMS Week began in 1974 by the American College of Emergency Physicians and President Gerald Ford.

Benton 1 provides Basic Life Support with certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). We also are active and involved in our community and local schools teaching fire and injury prevention. We believe strongly that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – and we provide both!



We appreciate the support of our community, and consider it an honor to serve. Join our fire family as a firefighter/EMT, and learn how great it is to give back to your community! Visit our website ([bentonone.org](http://bentonone.org)) or call our office at (509) 737-0911 to learn more about our volunteer program.

### Connect with us...

 (509) 737-0911

 [www.bentonone.org](http://www.bentonone.org)

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