

BENTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 22, 2019

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Another Clean Audit for Benton County Fire District #1

KENNEWICK, WASH. — Benton County Fire District #1 passed its independent financial and accountability audits conducted by the Washington State Auditor's office. The audits, which cover financial and operational practices for 2015-2017, came back with no findings. This continues a long history of clean audits for the fire district.

Daily operations at Benton #1 are funded through a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which voters renew every six years. The auditing process involves assessing how the fire district manages, uses, and safeguards these public resources.

“Our emergency response to save lives and property is funded by local taxpayers,” said Fire Chief Lonnie Click. “We take those responsibilities seriously.”

Benton #1 operates under a balanced budget and aggressively maintains its apparatus, facilities and equipment to extend their usable lives. Fire commissioners are elected by the community, and all board meetings are open to the public.

“We appreciate the support of our community,” said Chief Click. “We will continue to be accountable and transparent for how funding is used to save lives and property.”

To read the full audit reports, visit the Office of the Washington State Auditor website at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch> and search ‘Benton County Fire District 1.’

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Benton County Fire District #1 is a combination fire department with approximately 90 volunteer, part-time and full-time firefighters serving 18,600 people over 320 square miles. In 2018 it responded to 1,519 calls for structural and wildland fire suppression, emergency medical service, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response. The fire district operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all financial and accountability audits with the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.bentonone.org.