

## **Getting to know Klickitat County EMS District #1 - 2024 Article 2**

Press Release

01/29/2024

Submitted By: Katharina Larson, Paramedic & Suzanne Gilmer, EMT-IV Technician  
Both members of the IAFF Local 5172, Professional EMS Providers of Klickitat County

Here at Klickitat County EMS, we hope you and your family had a most happy and healthy holiday season.

With our hearts full of gratitude as 2023 comes to a close, we would like to touch on a couple different topics. All of us at KCEMS1 would like to express our appreciation to all the first responders who dedicate their time, energy and resources to helping their neighbors and visitors of Klickitat County during a variety of emergencies. The benefit of these resources helps in accessing patients and providing medical care in the diverse terrain within our county. Accidents happen while snowmobiling, mountain biking, kayaking and rafting, hiking, paragliding, kiteboarding, boating and motor sports, to name a few. We at KCEMS1 are very grateful for all the collaborative teamwork within our tight-knit communities.

We would like to send a huge thank you to all those who helped and supported our winter clothing drive. We had so many warm clothes, blankets, hats and gloves, etc., donated. Someone who needs to stay warm and doesn't have the means will appreciate the generous efforts of all involved. If you missed out this year, we look forward to having you join us in supporting those in need next winter. All items were donated to WAGAP and will be distributed locally.

It is exciting to have continued interest from community members who have taken and want to take that next step in helping those in need. To date we have had more than 60 people become certified EMTs through classes offered in this county. The next EMT class is already filled and will begin this January. It takes a great amount of dedication to complete this class and we look forward to the next group of new EMTs.

KCEMS1 January Fun Fact: We carry shovels to sometimes clear a path to our patients, and we have been known to improvise a way to “sled” our patients and equipment to and from the ambulance.

KCEMS1 January Safety Tip: Help us to help you by having clearly marked house numbers on your house or at your driveway.

KCEMS1 Statistic of the month: There were 40 inter-facility transfers (IFTs) of patients from our local hospitals to a higher-level hospital in the month of November.

With winter upon us, it is always good to carry blankets, water, snacks and a flashlight in your vehicle.

Make sure to keep your fuel tank topped off and carry a small shovel and traction devices to help you weather the winter storms. Stay safe and warm!

*Katharina Larson is a paramedic and Suzanne Gilmer an EMT-IV technician with Klickitat County EMS District No. 1. Additionally, both are members of the IAFF Local 5172, Professional EMS Providers of Klickitat County.*