



## **Whatcom County News Release**

**(360) 676-6717**

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**For Immediate Release – (June 26, 2014)**

**Contact: (Tyler Schroeder)  
(Executive Office)  
(360.676.6717)**

**On July 1 Whatcom County is transitioning to a new Emergency Medical (EMS) System with two Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom Fire District #7 will be providing 4 ALS Ambulances to serve all of Whatcom County. The EMS Technical Advisory Board (TAB) representing both ALS providers, City and County Administration, and Fire Chiefs Association have been meeting twice a month to plan for the transition. Additionally, the EMS Oversight Board**

**representing Elected Officials and citizens have been meeting on a bi-monthly basis to review and approve recommendations made by the TAB.**

**Throughout the preparation, there has been a collective and consistent goal of the Board(s) to ensure a smooth transition for the community. The only changes that may be noticeable to the community are the renumbering of a few units as seen below:**

- Medic 1 and Medic 2 operated by Bellingham Fire at Station #1, 1800 Broadway, will primarily serve the City of Bellingham and Southwest Whatcom County.**
- Medic 10 (formerly Medic 4) operated by Bellingham Fire at Medic Station #10, 858 E. Smith Road will primarily serve the City of Lynden and Eastern Whatcom County.**
- Medic 45 (formerly Medic 41) operated by Fire District #7 at Fire Station #45, 1886 Grandview Road will primarily serve the City of Ferndale and Northwest Whatcom County.**
- EMS 1 (formerly EMS 6) operated by Bellingham Fire at Station #1, 1800 Broadway, will provide 24 hour supervision and management of the day to day operation of the ALS system.**

**ALS units are available to provide service county-wide and will be dispatched based on call volumes and service capacities as appropriate. Units will primarily respond to emergencies within the corresponding areas of Whatcom County as outlined above.**

**As we enter into this transition for County wide EMS service, we recognize and honor the continued public service and dedication of the first responders who have provided 40 years of advanced life support and paramedic services in Whatcom County.**

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