

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**
County Courthouse
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Jack Louws
County Executive

Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services Announces 40th Anniversary Celebration event, Wednesday, October 22

For Immediate Release, September 24, 2014

Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services and Whatcom Medic One will celebrate their 40th Anniversary at an event to be held at the Whatcom Unified Emergency Coordination Center on Wednesday, October 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The celebration honors the men and women, who for the past 40 years have responded to the public's need for emergency medical care. The event will be a gathering of the present and past emergency medical services (EMS) system responders and will celebrate their public service and dedication to the citizens of Bellingham and all of Whatcom County. Members of the public who have been served by these providers are also invited to attend and light refreshments will be provided.

The celebration will include remarks from County Executive Jack Louws and Mayor of Bellingham, Kelli Linville, and Whatcom County Medical Program Director Dr. Wayne, among others. Whatcom County Council and Bellingham City Council recognized the 40th anniversary by joint resolution during National EMS Week in May of this year. A video montage will be shown of EMS providers and survivors sharing stories of those who have benefited from EMS in the past.

EMS started in Whatcom County when Whatcom Medic One was formed in July 1974. This occurred when the Bellingham Fire Department and County EMS providers came together through an interlocal agreement and began delivering countywide EMS services. The EMS system in Whatcom County has evolved over the years in many ways. On July 1 of this year the Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport component of the system transitioned to a new structure, with ALS response being provided countywide by Bellingham Fire Department and WCFD7. In addition Whatcom County continues to be served by our existing basic life support providers, including all of the County first response agencies. This is an opportunity to celebrate the 40 years of public service and dedication of all of our agencies to the citizens of Whatcom County.

For Information contact: Tyler Schroeder
Whatcom County Executive's Office
360.676.6717

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