



# KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PLEASE DO NOT CALL 911 FOR NON-EMERGENCY COVID-19 CONCERNS**

Ellensburg, Washington, March 28th, 2020- Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue is asking all Kittitas County residents to only call 9-1-1 if you have an emergency. If you are experiencing symptoms of a flu, cold and/or COVID-19, please call the Kittitas Valley Healthcare (KVH) COVID-19 clinic at 509.933.8850 or Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) at 509.933.8315 or your primary care physician. The Emergency Operations Center, KCPHD and KVH have these specific resources set up to provide information about COVID-19 to our community.

Remember that 9-1-1 is for emergency situations. For influenzas or COVID-19 this would mean respiratory distress or decreased level of consciousness. When EMS responds to non-emergency calls, it puts the responders and community at risk. “When EMS arrives on scene of non-emergent situations, unnecessary exposures occur to the responders. It also depletes our personal protective equipment supplies including: N-95 masks and gowns,” states Chief Sinclair. “By calling the designated COVID-19 community resources, you are decreasing the spread of influenza and COVID-19.” Deputy Chief Elliott states “Calling 9-1-1 for non-emergent services, will not result in testing or care that would not otherwise be available from the KVH COVID-19 clinic or KCPHD.”

Please help us keep our 9-1-1 resources available for emergency needs. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please call the designated COVID-19 resources or your primary care physician.

KVFR

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For additional information please contact:

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KVFR

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