



CITY OF  
**UNION GAP**  
1883

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**To Our Union Gap Residents and Business Owners,**

On behalf of the City Council, I want to share important information about a recent change in how fire protection and emergency medical services are provided to our community. After careful review, the City of Union Gap will transition its fire and EMS service delivery from the City of Yakima Fire Department to Yakima County Fire District No. 4 – East Valley. This change will occur on January 1, 2026.

This decision was made following a comprehensive evaluation of service levels and long-term financial sustainability. While the City of Yakima Fire Department has provided years of dedicated service to Union Gap, rising operational costs prompted the City to explore options to ensure the best possible, sustainable protection for our residents and businesses. **We want to thank the Yakima Fire Department and its dedicated staff for serving our community for the past ten years.**

After that evaluation, the Council determined that partnering with Yakima County Fire District 4–East Valley would provide a more sustainable model—enhancing staffing capacity and fiscal responsibility. This partnership also expands opportunities for regional training, shared equipment, and coordinated response during major incidents.

Importantly, this transition has been structured to ensure **no interruption in emergency services**. Union Gap will continue to receive **24-hour coverage** from highly trained and certified firefighters who meet or exceed state and national standards. Residents can continue to dial **9-1-1** as always for fire or medical emergencies.

This change reflects the City Council’s commitment to **Fiscal Responsibility** and ensures that Union Gap remains well-protected while maintaining a responsible, sustainable approach to taxpayer resources.

We understand that any change in essential services can raise questions. The City is committed to open communication and welcomes your questions. Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work to keep Union Gap a safe, strong, and resilient community.

Sincerely,

Gregory Cobb  
City Manager