



1400 West Eighth Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-296-9445 Fax: 541-296-8656

April 25, 2024

Adventist Health Columbia Gorge
Attn: Jayme Mason, Patient Care Executive
1700 E. 19th Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Dear Jayme,

We are writing this letter to inform you that Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue has chosen to discontinue conducting interfacility transfers between hospitals later this year. We believe this decision will help our emergency response organization maintain our strong and quality Fire, Rescue, and EMS response within our Fire District and contracted Ambulance Service Area.

Interfacility hospital transfers have been an ongoing challenge for us over time due to the changes taking place in health care services locally as well as the shortage of medical staffing and beds in some facilities. This has made it difficult for us to manage our resources, staff, and equipment well, and has made us less responsive to local emergencies.

We feel it is important to focus on our main goal, which is to provide efficient and timely Fire, Rescue, and EMS response to the people of ASA 2 and our Fire District. We believe this is the best way to serve our community and fulfill our mission. Our intention is to continue doing interfacility hospital transfers until you are able to manage a smooth transition which minimizes any disruption to the patients and the health care system.

Please be aware, this does not change our contracted relationship with Lifeflight on providing an ambulance and driver for critical care transfers when a helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft is not available. Additionally, we will continue to maintain local transfers for patients back to home, on hospice, or to local care facilities. These services and their frequency have much less of an impact on our local response.

Cc: Adam Lee
Rhianna Hurff
Dawn OpBroek



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We hope that our meeting on April 25th has clarified our position on this issue. As discussed, we will work together with Adventist Health as we proceed with this operational change.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert F. Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Robert F. Palmer
Fire Chief

Cc: Adam Lee
Rhianna Hurff
Dawn OpBroek