



# CITY OF GOLDENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## \*\*\*Press Release\*\*\*

Contact: Fire Chief, Noah Halm

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Lt, Filiberto Ontiveros

“South Columbus Fire”  
1500 Block of S Columbus Ave  
October 28, 2023  
10:16 P.M.

At approximately 1016 pm on October 28, 2023, the Klickitat County Emergency Communications Center received the initial report of a possible structure fire from a Klickitat County Sheriff’s Deputy driving in the area. The Goldendale Fire Department was immediately paged to the 1500 block of South Columbus Ave. A second page immediately followed advising KCSO deputy confirmed this was a fully involved structure fire. Rural 7 fire was also paged under the Automatic aid agreement.

Crews began arriving within minutes and were informed that the resident was possibly still inside. Firefighters were unable to make entry due to the structure being fully involved. At approximately 2259 hours crews had the fire knocked down and began “heavy mop-up.”

Fire crews were able to locate the body of one person. Once the scene was made safe it was turned over to Goldendale Police Department who began their investigation and requested the Klickitat County Coroner and assistance from Q- Global Fire Investigations.

Fire units cleared the scene at 138 AM. No additional details are being released at this time. We ask our community to be supportive and respectful of the family and their privacy at this time of loss.

“Our firefighters put their hearts into training, and our ability to respond to an emergency scene as quick as full-time fire departments. We had a great response, however, in this case the outcome was beyond our control”, said Chief Noah Halm.

“As we get into colder temperatures residents need to do what they can to prevent fires as well as quick recognition and alerting. It is important that homes use proper heating designed for inside the home; Never use extensions or power strips to plug in heaters; Each room should be equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; Homes should have annual Inspection and service of fireplaces and chimneys by a licensed and bonded provider” added public information officer Filiberto Ontiveros. We need everyone’s help in prevention efforts.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our supporting agencies for their response today. Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services, Rural 7 Fire and Rescue, Goldendale Police Department, Klickitat Public Utility District, Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management 911, Klickitat County Sheriff’s Office, Q-Global Fire Investigations and Avista.

Additionally thank you Cross Roads Coffee for delivering plenty of coffee and bagel sandwiches for the first responders at the scene.

Support services will be made available for all first responders on the incident.

Family, friends and community members in need of emotional support can also reach out to the Mental Health Crisis Line by dialing 988.

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