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NEWS RELEASE

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Washington State to begin launching Text to 9-1-1 Service; Text-to-9-1-1 not yet available in Walla Walla County

Kitsap County announced today that it has begun phasing in Text-to-9-1-1 service. However, Walla Walla County is not accepting text messages to 9-1-1 at this time.

Currently, only Kitsap County is operationally “live” with Text-to-9-1-1 Service in Washington State. King and Snohomish Counties on the west side are still in the testing phase prior to implementation. No counties on the East side of the state are yet operational with this service. Although a final implementation date has not yet been set, we are estimating that this service will be available later this year.

Because Text-to-9-1-1 is now available in some parts of Washington State, there are a few things you should know:

- **Texting to 9-1-1 is intended to benefit people that may not be able to speak in an emergency. The key thing to remember is “Call if you can; Text if you Can’t”.**
- **When texting to 9-1-1 for an emergency, the first message should be the location of the emergency (including the city) and the type of emergency help needed (police, fire, or medical).**
- **Keep text messages brief and concise, using full words.**
- **Stay with your phone, be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.**
- **Photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1 at this time.**

REMEMBER THAT TEXT-TO-9-1-1 service is not yet available in Walla Walla County. If you send a text to 9-1-1 in an area without this service, you should receive a reply message saying that the service is not available.

For more details and updates about Text-to-9-1-1, go to <http://mil.wa.gov/e911>