

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gary Jenkins, Chief of Police

Pullman Police Department

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NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

PULLMAN – The week of April 8-14, 2012 is "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week". This is an opportunity to honor the women and men who serve as our public safety dispatchers. They are the voice at the other end of the 911 call assisting a distraught caller. They are the voice behind the radio when police, firefighters and medical personnel are responding to emergency situations. Often these "invisible" courageous professionals are the forgotten component of public safety.

If you've ever been the victim of a crime, been in a collision, reported a fire or needed emergency medical help, you've called 911 and been helped by a telecommunicator, also known as a "dispatcher". Not being visible or always recognized in the public's eye, the critical role they play between the community and responders is essential for every public safety request ranging from illegally parked cars to fatalities.

The Pullman Police and Fire Departments rely on Whitcom, the regional dispatch center located in Pullman, for 911 and dispatching services. "They have a difficult job with tremendous responsibility," said Pullman Police Chief Gary Jenkins. "They are a vital link between the community and first responders, and they fill that role with competency and professionalism."

Telecommunicators Week began in California in 1981 and quickly grew to national recognition. Just ten years later, Congress designated the second full week of each April as a time to remember the critical role that dispatchers play in keeping us all safe.

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