



## EAS Completes Successful First Year

MOUNTIAN HOME, ID (May 7, 2010) At 8:02 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2009 Elmore Ambulance Service (EAS) was paged by Elmore County Dispatch, officially recognizing the beginning of a new ambulance service for the County.

After a comprehensive Joint Study process by the County and Hospital, Elmore County Commissioners took a new direction with the ambulance service, in 2009, by entering into a joint powers agreement with Elmore Medical Center to create "Elmore Ambulance Service". The agreement was structured with the capital assets remaining the property of the county and the county assuming full financial responsibility, while Elmore Medical Center assumed responsibility for day-to-day operations.

Identified in the Joint Study and included in the agreement were five best practice characteristics of successful ambulance service. These success factors include: Effective knowledgeable management, Ambulance service education, Quality equipment and supplies standardized throughout the service area, integrated ambulance service vested in the community resulting in collaboration and cooperation from all community services, and Fiscal responsibility.

After 12 months of operation, Elmore Ambulance Service is meeting all expectations.

G. Dale Curran, Jr., as manager for Elmore Ambulance Service provides operational leadership and is assisted by Rich Albright, Paramedic. Curran came to the position with 23 years of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) experience. He worked as a paramedic, supervisor and trainer both in rural and metropolitan communities.

"We are very proud of the excellent service provided by our EAS staff and the leadership of Dale Curran and Rich Albright", stated Hospital Administrator Greg Maurer.

An EAS Advisory committee was also established to provide a forum to facilitate communication and coordination of area emergency services. Committee stakeholders include: Pine/Featherville Ambulance Service, Grand View Ambulance Service, Prairie Quick Response Unity, Oasis Quick Response Unit, Bruneau Quick Response Unit, Elmore Ambulance Service, County Commissioners, Elmore County Sheriff's office, Idaho State Police, Mountain Home City Police Department, Mountain Home Fire Department, Elmore County Rural Fire Department, King Hill Rural Fire Department, Elmore County Extrication service, Idaho Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Elmore Medical Center.

A flex grant from the State Office of Rural Health provided nearly \$25,000 in funds dedicated for EMS education. Over 30 community members benefited from this EMS education. Two EAS staff members completed Train the Trainer certification and are qualified to train future Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Grant funds were used to purchase much of the equipment used for EMT training classes.

Elmore County Commissioners were instrumental in procuring new ambulances and providing appropriate ambulance facilities.

In the first year of service, a total of 1790 ambulance runs were recorded with 1350 of those runs being 911 responses. EAS has also participated in 22 dedicated events (those that require an ambulance presence such as rodeos and motocross races) and 17 courtesy standby events, such as high school sports activities, parades and car shows.

At the close of the first year of operations the ambulance service was exceeding financial targets, saving the county \$87,267. Savings resulted from a combination of operational efficiencies, increased call volumes, and good billing practices. For the first year of operations net revenues were \$580,443, operating expenses were \$836,584, and ambulance district funding was \$256,141.

"The ambulance service partnership with the hospital serves as a model for the whole state" stated Elmore County Commissioner, Connie Crusier. "It has been one of our most significant achievements in the county".