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Ambulance Service earns Advanced State Licensure

Teton Valley Ambulance has earned the highest designation possible for pre-hospital emergency care. Mid-April, the State of Idaho Division of EMS elevated TVA’s current standing as a provider of Intermediate Life Support services to Advanced Life Support. In order to gain this recognition, Teton Valley Ambulance now provides 24/7 paramedic coverage for Teton County. While TVA has employed experienced EMTs with certifications ranging from EMT Basic to EMT Advanced, previously only one person was a paramedic. Jim Gaines, Paramedic and Director of TVA, is also an approved paramedic educator.

“We were able to add a paramedic to the team when Mike Mellick signed on in the fall. After months of training, we’ll be announcing the addition of several more paramedics, two next week and several more in the upcoming months,” said Gaines, also noting that EMTs Chris Taylor and Kim Sorenson are completing their tests this week.

“Nationally, having this designation translates to the highest level of care you can offer as an ambulance service. “

In terms of services, having the ALS licensure means expanded emergency care for people who require an ambulance. Paramedics are trained and certified to use a more advanced class of procedures, medications and equipment, notably in the areas of cardiac arrest and resuscitation. Cardiac defibrillation, advanced IV treatments and administration of higher echelon pharmaceuticals are examples of services now available.

Costs associated with TVA’s new license have been paid through the County’s Ambulance Tax district and have included training, equipment and transportation upgrades with a grand total of approximately \$28,000.

Teton Valley Ambulance employees are stationed at Teton Valley Hospital where they perform a variety of duties to assist patients and healthcare providers when they are not on emergency calls.

“My professional experience ranges from the complexities of urban cities in Texas to the craziness of isolated areas in Alaska,” said Gaines. “Our EMTs and upcoming Paramedics have some of the best patient care skills I’ve seen, and that is a fantastic resource for everyone. Having them gain additional experience while working in the TVHC Emergency Room is also a major benefit, providing the EMTs a great deal of additional experience and patient care exposure



“By achieving ALS licensure, our community will now benefit – within minutes - from the highest level of pre-hospital care possible,” said Virgil Boss, CEO of Teton Valley Health Care.

