

# History of Idaho EMS

## 1963 - Today

Travel through time...

Click on the timeline to view details  
for each of the date ranges.

# 1963-1969

1963 The Idaho Legislature passes a law allowing boards of county commissioners to establish ambulance services within their counties.

1965 The Idaho Legislature amends the ambulance law to allow establishment of ambulance service whenever existing service is not reasonably available.

1967 Legislation passes authorizing boards of county commissioners to establish a special ambulance service levy.

1969 Idaho Department of Health conducts a statewide ambulance service site visit survey; funded by the newly formed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

AN APPRAISAL OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE  
IN IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO AND VICINITY  
PART II - EXHIBITS - PRESENT AMBULANCE SERVICE

December 1969

by

P. B. Anderson

T. W. Asbury

1969 Idaho Falls Ambulance Service

Appraisal J. Harrie

T. H. Stickley

## CHAPTER 278 (H. B. No. 37, As Amended)

### AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMBULANCE SERVICES BY THE SEVERAL BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE THE AREAS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CITIES AND VILLAGES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SCHEDULE OF FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR SAID SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR THE DEPOSIT OF REVENUE FROM SAID TAX AND SAID FEES IN AN AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND; PROVIDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH REFERENCE TO SAID SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION OF SUCH SERVICE WITHIN CITIES AND VILLAGES AND FOR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH ADJACENT COUNTIES

1963 Session Law

1970-1972

1973-1975

1976-1979

# 1970-1972

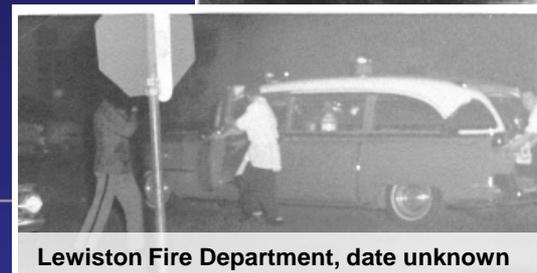
1971 Cecil D. Andrus, Governor of Idaho, appoints a task force to develop a statewide EMS plan.

1971 Idaho Office of Highway Safety provides funding to staff a state EMS office with a statewide coordinator.

1971 First EMT course in Idaho taught in Idaho Falls.

1972 Idaho receives a \$100,000 grant from the Mountain States Regional Medical Program for assistance in developing a statewide emergency health services plan.

1972 Idaho becomes the first rural state to enact a paramedic law.



Lewiston Fire Department, date unknown

Legislation passes authorizing:

- certain acts by ambulance personnel;
  - the Idaho Board of Medicine to establish rules and regulations to administer the act;
  - exemption from liability for acts of omission committed in good faith under the terms of the act and
  - provided that failure to obtain consent shall not result in liability where the patient is unable to give consent and there is no other person reasonably available.
- 1972

1970-1972

1973-1975

1976-1979

HOME

# 1973-1975

1973 Governor announces the implementation of the Statewide Emergency Health Services Plan as recommended by the Governor's Task Force.

1974 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards Idaho the 2nd largest grant in the nation. Funding is used to develop a statewide mountain microwave/radio system and to staff EMS field offices with regional EMS coordinators.

1974 Idaho Falls implements the first 9-1-1 system in Idaho.



197? Presentation of Ambulance. Boise

1975 Idaho EMS receives the first basic and advanced life support grants from the National EMSS Act. An average of 2 million federal grant dollars/yr funded EMS system development in Idaho throughout the late 1970s.

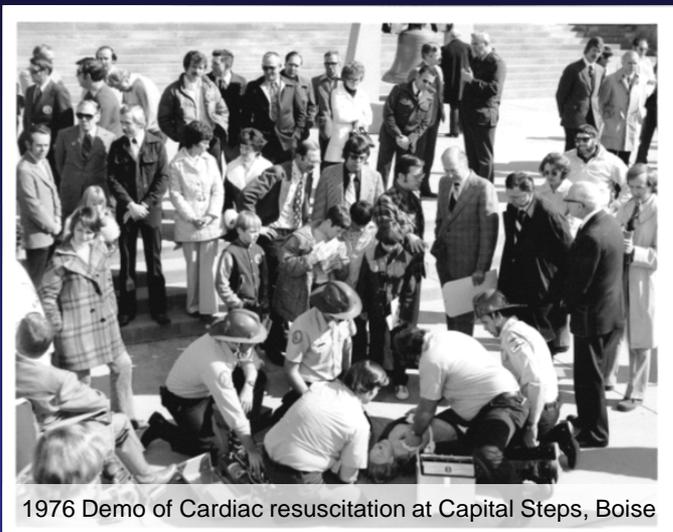
1975 The legislature authorizes local boards of county commissioners to establish ambulance service districts... that the district shall be recognized as a legal taxing district, and to provide government of the district by the board(s) of county commissioners

1970-1972

1973-1975

1976-1979

# 1976-1979



1976 Demo of Cardiac resuscitation at Capital Steps, Boise

1976

Legislation passes to regulate the emergency care services rendered by BLS personnel. This provides:

- minimum standards for ambulance services,
- waiver of standards, and allowed certain exemptions;
- authority to the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare to establish rules, regulations, and standards to administer this act; and
- exemption from liability for acts of omission committed in good faith under the terms of the act and provided that failure to obtain consent shall not result in liability where the patient is unable to give consent and there is no other person reasonably available.

Legislative rule creates the EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC) to provide council to the department in administering the EMSS Act.

1976

Legislation passes amending Idaho code related to Ambulance Service Districts to provide that Ambulance Service is a governmental function, to provide mill levy limits for providing Ambulance Service Districts, and to grant immunity from civil damages to ambulance attendants of ambulance service districts.

1976

Statewide EMS Communications (StateComm) and Poison Center begins operation.

1977



Info stall at state capitol, Boise

1980-1984

1985-1989

# 1980-1984

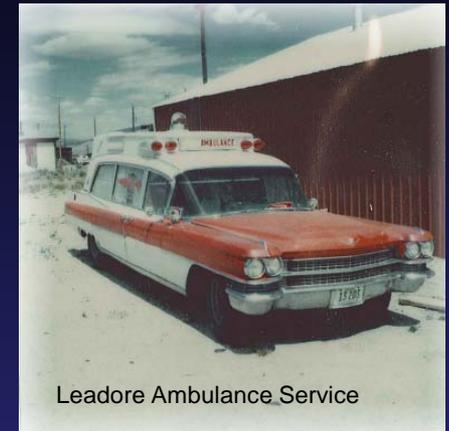
Amended Idaho code redefines Paramedics and EMTs as persons authorized to render emergency medical services, updates authorized actions, and provides regulations by the State Board of Medicine in assuming jurisdiction over EMTs.

1980

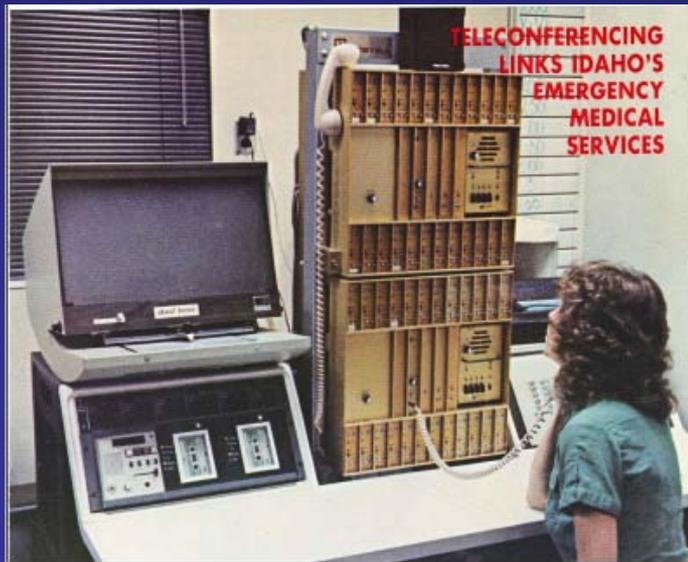


1981

Idaho Legislature enacts the first innovative funding approach: EMS fee on motor vehicle registrations.



Leadore Ambulance Service



1981

Amended Idaho code provides for an increase in the market value of ambulance districts authorized to levy a special tax not to exceed ten-hundredths percent.

1983

Idaho EMS begins statewide teleconference continuing education program.

1983

Idaho EMS begins the first Mobile Trauma Training Unit (MTTU) program in the nation.

1983

Bannock Regional Medical Center (now Portneuf Medical Center), launches its first flight, and becomes the first air medical transport service in Idaho and only the 125th in the nation.

1980-1984

1985-1989

# 1985-1989

CHC Foundation of Idaho Falls awards a \$120,000 grant to develop a rural semi-automatic defibrillator EMT-D program in eastern Idaho, the largest such program nationwide.

1986

EMT Training videos produced as a means of improving course content and consistency of EMT training statewide.

1988



Idaho receives one of four federal EMS for Children (EMSC) grants awarded in the nation. \$800,000 in funding is used to form regional committees around the state for this two year national demonstration grant. Regional committees are involved in coordination and oversight of pediatric EMS activities.

1989



1990

1991-1992

1993

1994

# 1990



1990 Idaho EMS implements the first Mobile Interactive Training Unit (MITU) program in nation.

1990 Idaho EMS initiates a statewide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) team.

1990 EMS vehicle registration fee increased from \$.75 to \$1.25 (\$.25 retained by county of residence for local EMS funding, \$1.00 transmitted to state EMS account.)

1990 Idaho EMS conducts centennial year EMS conference (the largest in state history with over 700 in attendance.)



1990 Agency Photos Coming Soon

1990

1991-1992

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# 1991-1992

1991 Idaho EMS Units begin using scannable Patient Care Report forms providing new capabilities for EMS system research.

1991 Idaho EMS is awarded an additional \$500,000 in federal grant funds to continue the development of innovative technology for EMS training.

1991 70% of Idaho's population has 9-1-1 access; 85% of the population is covered by advanced or intermediate life support.

The image shows a sample of the Idaho Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Report form. The form is titled "Idaho Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Report" and includes a header for "EMT/Paramedic Report". It features a large grid for recording patient information, including vital signs, physical exam findings, and treatment provided. The form is designed to be scannable, with a barcode area at the bottom right. The form is filled out with various data points, including patient name, address, and medical history.

1992 Idaho Legislature passed bill defining EMS Transfer, First Responder, and removing reference to EMS training course hours and QRU.



1990

1991-1992

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1994

# 1993

1993 Idaho EMS Bureau opens a field office in Coeur d'Alene.

1993 Over 90% of Idaho's EMS Personnel are volunteers.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) team conduct a technical assessment of Idaho's EMS

1993 System.

Funeral coaches and hearses are no longer allowed as

1993 ambulances in Idaho code.



1st generation classification system published in the State Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Plan; StateComm becomes point of contact for

1993 HazMat incidents in the state.

1993 Idaho converts EMT-Ambulance certification to a Ambulance rating.

1993 High School Diploma/GED requirement for certification as an EMT in Idaho waived.

1990

1991-1992

1993

1994

# 1994

EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC) enhanced to fulfill role as outlined in rule with quarterly meetings and diverse community representation and subcommittees specific for EMS education, licensure, grants, legislative liaison, trauma system development, and DNRs.

1994

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) bill passes giving terminally ill persons an opportunity to limit their treatment in a medical emergency.

1994

Idaho receives \$185,000 for trauma planning from U.S. Department of Health and Welfare.

1994



DNR Jewelry

1995

1996

1997

1998-1999

# 1995

1995 First EMS Instructor Orientation course is taught by the Idaho EMS Bureau.

EMS Bureau and Idaho Board of Medicine collaborate for 1st time to develop a written manual for obtaining EMS certification and licensure.

1995 EMS Data Systems (EMSCAN) for patient care data collection purchased and installed.



1995 Recertification examinations abolished for First Responders and EMTs.

1995 Idaho State Police District 3 Communications Center move onto StateComm premises enhancing interagency coordination, communication, and equipment capabilities.

1995 Idaho EMS adopts National Standard Curriculum for EMT-Basic.



1995

1996

1997

1998-1999

# 1996

1996 Incorporation of National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as the required examination for certification.

1996 Legislature passes rule streamlining EMS authority. EMS scope of practice and medical direction standards continue to be regulated by the Board of Medicine; all other State EMS processes, including testing and licensing of personnel, are now governed by the Board of Health and Welfare.

1996 Poison Control Act passed by legislature to mandate a Poison Control Center for Idaho and provide public education. The EMS Bureau contracts poison control services to Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center out of Denver, Colorado

1996 Idaho EMS Bureau participates in the launch of the Governor's Public Safety Emergency Communication Committee and the Bureau of Disaster Services State Agency Emergency Coordinating Group.



**Poison Prevention**

Children Act Fast.  
So Do Poisons.

1995

1996

1997

1998-1999

# 1997

1997 StateComm becomes 100% certified as an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) center.

1997 Free market for EMS courses begins and instructor requirements instated.

1997 EMS Standards Manuals published by the Bureau detailing policy information on education, training, certification, licensure, and data collection.

1997 StateComm database deployed, becoming a paper free dispatch center.

1997 StateComm begins after hours dispatching of the Idaho Transportation Department and flight following for both Fish and Game and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation helicopters.



IDAHO FISH AND GAME  
preserve • protect • perpetuate

# 1998-1999

1998 First meeting of Wood River/Sawtooth Regional EMS Association; the first multi-agency, regional EMS body in Idaho.

1998 First Responder and EMT-Basic certifications lengthened to 3 year cycles. Advanced and Paramedic certifications remain at 2 years.

1999 Idaho forms the EMS for Children (EMSC) Task Force to assess pediatric prehospital emergency care in Idaho.

478

## EMT Honorees

Penny and Joseph Miller of Spirit Lake were honored Saturday by Spirit Lake Volunteer Ambulance officials for 25 years of volunteer work with the community's emergency medical services unit. About 160 attended the ceremony, including the Spirit Lake City Council, Kootenai County Paramedics, members of Spirit Lake, Harrison and Post Falls Ambulance and a former county commissioner. The Millers were honored during the Bush



JUL 26 2000

## State EMS officials say ambulance staffing OK

476 (455) 478

by Rob Ruth

Nearly two weeks after ushering a private investigator into Weiser Ambulance Service headquarters to conduct a broad-ranging probe of the service's records and employ-

Edmondson after the letter's author had sent a copy to the commissioners. Shimm said he told Edmondson at the time that the county should send an investigator into the ambulance hall and "purge his

cerns expressed by I think yo organization was our ability to maintain the minimal staffing requirements for a Paramedic level service," Edmondson said. "We share those same concerns. Do you ha

## EMS responds quickly in medical cases

478  
Volunteers, professionals dedicate many hours

2000

2001-2002

2003

2004-2005

# 2000

2000 StateComm becomes the activation point for the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

2000 StateComm and Idaho State Police (ISP) move to new state of the art facility at the ISP complex in Meridian.



2000 Representative for pediatric emergency medicine added to EMSAC.

2000 EMS Account III-Grants created by the Idaho Legislature. This dedicated Bureau fund will provide vehicle and equipment grants to qualifying EMS agencies.

2000 Legislation passed including EMTs in rule mandating flags at state and local government buildings to be flown at half-staff for deaths in the line of duty for Police, Firefighters, Paramedics, or EMTs.



# 2001-2002

2001 First dedicated grant funds awarded to Idaho EMS agencies.

Idaho Trauma Registry Advisory Committee created to review

2001 Idaho's trauma system and provide recommendations.

Paramedic Recertification requirements changed to include 72 continuing education hours in specific venues and categories, proof of affiliation and Medical Director assurance of

2002 knowledge and skills.

The Idaho Trauma Registry (ITR) established by Idaho Code 57-2003 to collect data needed to analyze the incidence,

2002 severity, causes, costs, and outcomes of trauma in Idaho.



Pine Featherville 1973 response vehicle before receiving dedicated grant funds



New Ambulance purchased with awarded grant monies.

# 2003

2003 Local EMS Committees are formed throughout Idaho with assistance from the EMS Bureau Regional Offices.

2003 PCR submission and collection software upgraded to Windows versions.

2003 Certifications issued in Regional Offices for faster, local service.

2003 All Bureau Database for tracking certification, education, exams, and grants deployed.



Gov. Kempthorne, Kathy Bessey, & Dia Gainor at State Comm

2003 Implementation of 96 port teleconference bridge to replace the older 48 port bridge.



Michele Carreras, StateComm

# 2004-2005



2004 To date, over 3.5 million dollars distributed to qualifying EMS agencies from the Dedicated Grant Fund, EMS Account III.

2004 Senate Bill #1320 requiring reporting of professional review action sanctions against EMS personnel to the Department of Health and Welfare passes in the Legislature.

2004 Legislation passed mandating all health care providers, including EMS personnel, comply with DNR Protocol.

2005 StateComm becomes key stakeholder in Idaho Regional Operation Center (IROC) planning committee.

2005 The Idaho Consortium for EMS Education (ICEE) is created as a forum for Idaho EMS educational institutions to collaborate in the advancement of Idaho EMS education.

2005 Legislation passes allowing EMS personnel to be eligible for the Idaho Law Enforcement, Firefighting and EMS Medal of Honor and to provide the EMS Bureau membership on the Medal of Honor Commission.



Idaho Medal of Honor Commission

# 2006

2006 Air Medical Services Utilization Rules passed by 2006 Legislature.

2006 StateComm deploys new computer aided dispatch (CAD) System and operational back up center.

2006 Idaho EMS realigns all provider certification expiration dates to September 30 and March 31.

2006 Idaho EMS Physician Commission ([EMSPC](#)) created by legislation to set EMS scope of practice and medical direction standards for Idaho EMS personnel.



Idaho  
Emergency Medical Services

EMT-B

Certificate #

Effective

Expire Date 09/30/2007

*Ma Gunn*  
Bureau Chief, Idaho EMS



# 2007



2007 The National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) transitions pencil-and-paper exams to computer based testing January 2007

2007 Idaho becomes one of two states to host mobile NREMT testing to better serve rural communities.

2007 Stakeholder task forces developed to review Grant Rules, Licensure Rules, and EMS Code.

2007 Idaho DNR Comfort One replaced by the Physician Order Scope of Treatment (POST) which includes a Do Not Resuscitate component tailored to EMS field providers.

2007 Idaho EMS Bureau reorganizes staff structure to better meet the needs of the contemporary Idaho EMS system and closes the Coeur d'Alene regional office.

2007 StateComm celebrates 30 years serving Idaho's dispatch needs.

2007 EMS Bureau launches Idaho Patient Electronic Reporting Care System (PERCS), a statewide web-based PCR program.



# 2008

2008 To date over 7.7 million dollars distributed to qualifying EMS agencies from the Dedicated Grant Fund, EMS Account III.

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2008 Idaho Emergency Medical Services Physician Commission ([EMSPC](#)) rules passed in Legislative Session.

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2008 Idaho Hospital Bed Tracking System deployed with 81% Idaho hospital participation.

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2008 15 Idaho EMS agencies received \$386,690 from Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, and local entities to become P25 compliant.

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EMS Staff Carolyn Thrasher and Denny Neibaur help Silver City EMS Personnel receive new vehicle through EMS Grant 2007

# 2009 & Beyond

2009 SB1108 modernizing Idaho Code Title 56 – EMS Act passes legislature starting a multi-year negotiated administrative rule-making process with stakeholders from throughout Idaho.

2009 Idaho Emergency Medical Services Physician Commission ([EMSPC](#)) rules updated in Legislative Session.

2009 Idaho EMS Bureau Central Office moves to basement of LBJ Building.



Rachael Alter, EMSC Specialist, cleaning out storage to make room for the move.



Dia Gainor, Bureau Chief, unpacking in her new office.