

June 4, 2015

Regular Meeting

EMS Ad Hoc

Item #2b

Bob Rooks

History of EMS

Mono County Emergency Medical Services

40 + Years of Service

This is just a very light overview of the program. During the evolution of the program a number of folks and agencies worked to keep the program going, the Board, Hospital district, MLFD, the community and the employees themselves..



Mono County Paramedics

Formed in 1976

BLS & ALS Transport

BLS

Basic Life Support

ALS

Advance Life Support



BLS, oxygen, basic airway adjuncts, AED, vital signs, splinting and wound care.

ALS, same as BLS plus, advance airway, advance vital monitoring including 3 lead & 12 lead EKG, up to 50 different medications, to treat cardiac arrhythmias, diabetic shock, allergic reactions, pain mgm, cardiac arrest, think of a ALS unit as a rolling ER, with direct contact to the Docs and nurses at the Base Hospital.

EMT-1 Training

- Training classes available in Mono & Inyo counties
- 130 hours to complete EMT-1 or basic level
- Generally no prior experience or training required to take class
- 24 hours of continuing education required each 2 year cycle to maintain certification

Employment is not a requirement to maintain certification

EMT-P Training

- Training classes are not available in the local area
- One year of experience working at the EMT-1 level for a BLS provider required before attending Paramedic school
- 1400 hours required to complete training
- 48 hours of continuing education required each 2 year cycle to maintain licensure

Must maintain employment to maintain certification in LEMSA. Difficult to get into school, high costs,

The Early Days

Prior to the formation of a structured ambulance system, most patients were transported by the local volunteer fire departments and/or the Sheriff's department in station wagons and suburbans

Most personnel attending to patients had either basic or advanced first aid training.

No medical control as we have today through the Hospital base station and no standing orders



The 1970s

- 1970 - 75 County contracted with American Ambulance
- Funded by the County and through billing for service
- Staffing was 1 Paramedic & 1 EMT-1
- Three stations located in Mammoth, June Lake and Bridgeport.

- Hospitals; (MGH) Mono General and (SME) Southern Mono
- 1976, the County took over operation of the ambulance service from the private provider and most employees came over also.
- John Flynn from American ambulance came over as the Paramedic coordinator, with the program being a stand alone department with MGH providing billing services

- 1977, the Bridgeport station was moved to Walker,
- Employees worked 24 hour shifts and 18 to 22 days a month due to minimal staffing levels
- 1978, BPFDD started running a BLS ambulance

It was determined that to better cover the County, M-1 was moved to Walker.

The BPFDD ambulance response to calls in Bridgeport and would cancel M-1 if they could handle and then transported to MGH

The 1980s

- 1982, Pete Levy took over as the PC and the schedule was changed to 5 on 5 off
- 1984, the Federal labor board make a ruling that the employees did not meet the standard for 29 U.S.C. section 207(k) and could no longer work 24 hour shifts without OT

Employees could no longer work 24 hour shifts without OT after 40hrs. Same issue as Stacy discussed

- 1984, the County felt it could not continue to operate the program under the new labor rules and the employees received lay off notices
- 1985, (MLFD) Mammoth Fire stepped in under Chief Sweeny and agreed to take over the program and place it under the fire department

- 1985 Current employees of the County we're laid off and rehired by MLFD
- All employees were classified as Paramedic/Firefighters to qualify for the 7K exemption
- Scheduling was changed to a 56 hour work week (Kelly schedule) which equaled ten 24 hour shifts a month before OT

All employees placed under the Safety classification in PERS

- Additional employees were hired for the new schedule
- Station locations remained in ML, JL and Walker but the medics were moved into the fire stations in ML and JL
- To fund the system, a JPA was formed between Mammoth Fire, Mono County, City of ML and Mammoth hospital District.

The percentage breakdown for the four entities were, County 64%, the remainder 12% each. Receivables were distributed back using the same percent

- As part of the agreement with Mammoth Fire, the Chief requested to change the staffing level at the Mammoth station to a 2 Paramedic ambulance, the other stations remained 1 Paramedic and 1 EMT, but the move from this point forward was to have an all Paramedic system
- Billing was moved from MGH to in-house at MLFD

The 1990s

- 1991 Mammoth Fire returned administration of the program back to the County
- The County placed the program under the CAO and hired a PC to run the day to day operations, billing was moved to Wittman Ent.
- 1992, I took over as the PC, still under the CAO's office

MLFD sited that the ongoing issue with State was effecting their budget
This left just the County, Hospital and the Town

1992, Mammoth Fire
discontinued funding the JPA

1992, The County hired the
Abaris Group to complete a
review of the program



The Abaris Group should be contacted to get a copy of this report.

- 1996 The Sheriff's Dept made a bid for the Paramedic program.
- The program was moved under the sheriff and my title changed to EMS Division Chief
- Billing was moved from Whittman to in-house at the Sheriff's Dept

Placing the program under the Sheriff provided the County with all of its Emergency services under one roof. Law, EMS, OES, communications
It also gave the program a defined chain of command

The Great Walker Flood

- 1997, The Walker river overran its banks, destroying Hwy 395 between Sonora Junc and Walker.
- A Paramedic Squad with 1 Paramedic on the squad was placed in Bridgeport with BPF D responding with a BLS ambulance for transport
- The squad was housed at the USFS compound at Bryant field and all shifts were covered with the current employees on OT

1997, 6 months to rebuild Hwy 395

The 2000s

- 2001, I moved over to Mammoth Fire full time
- 2001, Chris Mokrcek took over as EMS Division Chief, still under the Sheriff's dept
- 2003, M-7 added in Bridgeport, total of 4 Medic units
- 2003 MGH was no longer a receiving facility



M-7 eliminates the need for the County to pay additional costs for medical care at the Jail. Costs unknown. BPFD stops operation of their BLS ambulance when medic unit is placed in Bridgeport. MGH becomes a clinic.

- 2005, The Sheriff's Dept discontinued administering the Paramedic Program
- 2006 The program was created as a stand alone Department, Mono County Fire Rescue
- 2007, Mark Mikulicich was hired as the Fire Rescue Chief
- Billing was moved to Alpine County

- 2008, The County started reviewing the requirements for the 207(k) exemption and the paramedic employees no longer qualify for this section
- 2009, All employees moved to a standard 40 hr, 7 day a week work calculation for pay and overtime

The change in schedule created a increase in employee compensation of 11.4% including their holiday pay.

- 2011, Mark retired as Fire Rescue Chief
- 2011, Program placed under Public Health Dept
- 2013, Rob DeForest hired as EMS manager under Linda

ALS Ambulance Coverage Areas

- M-1 - Devils Gate to N County line
- M-2 - Crestview rest area to base of Conway summit
- M-3 - Crestview rest area to S County line
- M-7 - Devils Gate to Conway summit

The program can add an additional ALS ambulance or squad, M-6, for special events, This unit would be filled with OT personnel

BLS Ambulance Units

- Mammoth Lakes Fire - R-3371
- White Mtn Fire - Medic-4
- Chalfant Fire - Medic-5
- Bridgeport Fire - Medic-7, 1977 to 2003
- Mammoth Hospital - SME-1
- Back-up unit stored at Long Valley Fire

Current Funding Sources



From Board members