

Kittitas County PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 2

MEDIC ONE

Who responds to 911 calls?

There are multiple organizations in Upper Kittitas County that are part of our emergency medical services (EMS) system. They may respond when your 911 medical emergency call comes in.

In most cases, you would be transported in an ambulance operated by **Upper Kittitas County Medic One**, the primary ambulance provider. It has paid staff and provides **advanced life support care**.

Depending on where you called from, though, a **volunteer-staffed ambulance** from **Fire District 7** or the **Cle Elum Fire Department** might arrive first. You would be assessed and provided with **basic life support care** until an advanced life support ambulance crew arrived.

This cooperative response system is able to meet the current needs of the community and provides good coverage. When there are multiple calls for a response at the same time, we rely on support from **Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue in Ellensburg**.

PATIENTS TRANSPORTED



594
2011



549
2012



593
2013



731
2014



739
2015



2015 by the numbers

Ambulance

We provided advanced life support ambulance service through Upper Kittitas County Medic One.

 **1,107** calls for help

739 patients  transported

busiest days are **Saturdays** 

Urgent Care

We provided a limited amount of financial support for KVH Urgent Care - Cle Elum. This service is operated by Kittitas Valley Healthcare.

2,762 visits 

Top **5** reasons for visits

sore throat • cough
earache • laceration
urinary tract infection

busiest days are **Sundays** 

Community Paramedicine: Starting Small

As a California Boy Scout working toward the Eagle rank, Chris Lawson loved earning his merit badge in First Aid.

Call it a precursor of what lay ahead.

After high school, he completed an EMT program at Foothills Community College, then went to work for an ambulance company in San Jose. Now 27, he's an Upper Kittitas County Medic One paramedic who just completed a four year paramedic degree at Central Washington University this past December.



He's also the Upper County lead in an innovative program aimed at improving the health safety network for Kittitas County. Dubbed the Community Paramedic program, the effort is a collaboration between Upper Kittitas County Medic One, Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue in the Lower County, and Kittitas Valley Healthcare. Still in its infancy and still evolving, the program aims to help people avoid having to call 911.

"It's like we're all holding hands not to let anyone fall through the cracks," says Lawson who, along with fellow Upper Kittitas County Medic One paramedic Steve Chrisman and two Lower County paramedics, received special training for the program.

Paramedics are uniquely positioned to identify needs because "a huge part of being a paramedic is we go right into people's homes," Lawson says. "We can be the eyes and ears for other providers, creating a connection where we work together to help the patient."

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When there's a need, the program can connect the patient to help from KVH Home Health, KVH Hospice, or other resources. "There was one situation where we went into a home and there was a family who needed help but didn't know what was out there and didn't ask," Lawson says.

But Lawson emphasizes that "nothing happens without the patient's permission. We're trying to connect them with help they need. We're not trying to get them out of their homes. The aim is communication and education." Lawson says the Community Paramedic program is just beginning to catch on in the Upper County, a geographically challenged area where people often live in remote areas, pride themselves on independence and self-reliance, and may be reluctant to ask for help.

"We're starting small," says Lawson, who loves working here, "but we think small things can have big impact."

Upgrades to Ambulance Fleet

2015 was not kind to the ambulances in the Upper Kittitas County Medic One fleet. The year seemed to be plagued with maintenance and repair issues. Though the ability to care for those in an emergency wasn't impacted, the ambulance units weren't as reliable as we require them to be.

We aim to replace each ambulance unit after five years of service or around 110,000 miles driven. With three ambulances in our fleet, that equates to about one replacement every other year.

Replacements can take the form of new purchases or, as a slightly less expensive option, a remount. A remount is exactly what it sounds like: the ambulance is remounted onto a new chassis. The cost of a new unit is about \$175,000; a remount is about \$130,000.

In order to return the fleet to solid footing, we needed to replace two ambulances in 2015. In the end, we remounted one existing ambulance and purchased one new ambulance for our small fleet.



Letter from the Board President

Over the past year, the Board of Commissioners for Kittitas County Public Hospital District No. 2 has been working diligently with our local fire agencies and other community partners to evaluate the emergency medical services (EMS) system that acts as a safety net for Upper Kittitas County residents and visitors.

As with most rural areas, our EMS system relies on a limited number of paid staff and volunteers. The primary ambulance provider, Upper Kittitas County Medic One, has paid staff and provides advanced life support care. But depending on where you are when you call 911, a volunteer-staffed ambulance from Fire District 7 or the Cle Elum Fire Department might arrive first. The volunteers provide basic life support care until Upper Kittitas County Medic One arrives.

Despite the difficulties that rural areas face, we believe that we can continue to evolve and improve our EMS system. Since October 2014, we have held five collaborative discussion and planning sessions with the Upper County organizations that are critical to EMS care. We have surveyed residents to learn what is most important to them in an EMS system. We have also welcomed Senator Judy Warnick and Representative Tom Dent to hear about the challenges we face.

We appreciate the openness and sincerity of each organization that came to the discussion table during 2015. It is clear from our conversations that Upper Kittitas County is fortunate to have a group of organizations and individuals who are so invested in their care. We look forward to what 2016 will bring.



Board of Commissioners: (L to R) Fred Benjamin, Floyd Rogalski, Kevin Nicholson, Hartwig Vatheuer, Claire Hein Nicholls

Floyd Rogalski

Open Door Health Clinic Volunteers Provide Care in Cle Elum

The Open Door Health Clinic is a non-profit organization that provides basic medical care for people who don't have insurance or aren't able to otherwise access healthcare services. The services they provide are free of charge and are funded primarily by United Way of Central Washington.

We provide space and a limited amount of medical supplies to the Open Door Health Clinic in our building at 201 Alpha Way. Open Door volunteers provide care in Cle Elum every other Saturday at 9 a.m. They are staffed by volunteer nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.

2015 CommunityReport

We're here when you need us.



Drop-in care.
No appointments.



**KVH Urgent Care
Cle Elum**
(509) 674-6944

Behind McDonald's at 201 Alpha Way

Fever
Earache
Sore throat
Flu-like symptoms
Colds • Vomiting
Nausea • Diarrhea
Simple bone fractures
Strains • Sprains • Cuts
Simple wounds • Rashes
Minor allergic reactions
Non-severe asthma attacks

HOURS

Weekdays 3 - 11 p.m.

*Weekends/Holidays
8 a.m. - 11 p.m.*

