

The Beulah Ambulance District

Report to The Community 2010

Beulah Ambulance Volunteers - Active in the Community

Demand for our services continues to grow, unfortunately. Our volunteers responded to sixty one calls in 2008. In 2009 our calls increased to 80. That included 37 day calls and 30 nighttime calls, the remainder were uncategorized. Our Basic Life Support (BLS) calls were 47 and our Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls were 20. We are running ahead of that rate in 2010. We had 7 standbys at community events. We received \$27,000 in grants. In 2008 Red Creek Volunteer Fire Department gave the ambulance district a 1984 Ford ambulance. This second ambulance is outfitted for Basic Life Support. We have already had 3 occasions when both ambulances were out on calls at the same time! Pueblo Community College gave us the gurney for the ambulance. With this second ambulance officially in service we began transporting patients to the hospital, while still being able to provide medical coverage for Beulah.

The State in 2008 awarded the Ambulance District a grant that provided us with the top of the line cardiac monitor. Our #1 ambulance now is certified to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to patients. Since we became an ALS ambulance we do not have to rely on AMR as much as in the past.

The Ambulance District applied for and received a grant for the Beulah school to have an Automated External Deliberator (AED) and provide the CPR training for the staff. A number of our EMT volunteers are now certified as CPR instructors and have provided CPR training for the school and some of the Beulah residents. We provided free CPR training for forty people.

In 2009 our district was awarded a grant from the State for training equipment. This equipment permits us to provide a high level of training for our volunteers at our offices in Beulah, both for all their advanced skills and continuous improvement in basic proficiency, so they can give the best care to the community. Since our inception we have trained 20 volunteers.

Our new office across from the General Store has space to train our volunteers, and to store our equipment. Come and visit!

Our volunteers give many hours of their time to provide the best care possible to Beulah and for those folks that come and visit this beautiful area. We look forward to another busy year and to providing more services for this community. **Dawn Young NR EMT-P. EMS Coordinator**

President's Letter

In addition to the traditional role of providing needed emergency care to members of or visitors to the community, we are attempting to look ahead and prevent emergency situations from arising!

In 2008 and 2009, the staff and volunteers noticed an increasing trend of incidents due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many Beulah residents heat or supplement their heat with a woodburning stove or fireplace. The unwanted side effect of this has been 5 ambulance runs for CO poisoning. Staff and volunteers of the District, realizing the growing problem, contacted businesses such as Pine Drive Telephone, Ludvik Propane and San Isabel Electric and solicited donations. The Pueblo Co. Sheriff's Dept. had a golf tournament fundraiser and gave the proceeds to the Beulah Ambulance District. The money raised was used to buy CO detectors that were installed free of charge by our volunteers for anyone who responded to our message on the Beulah "crawl" or our call to those in the District that had required CO related ambulance services.

We also have been active in 2008 and 2009 with a free influenza vaccination program. Particularly for Beulah's older residents, post-influenza complications such as pneumonia can lead to a spike in wintertime emergencies. In 2008 we gave 141 free flu shots and this increased to 173 in 2009.

This year, mindful of the serious events of the "Mason Gulch " fire, 6 of our EMT's completed Wildland Fire training. They can now provide emergency medical services to residents or firefighters at a wildfire scene.

In short, we have been busy and are trying to proactively look ahead. Personally , I'm grateful to have been able to serve as Board president since the District was formed with the 2007 mill levy vote and to participate in the growth that has taken place. Steve Douglas, the former director of Pueblo Co. Dept. of Emergency Management has agreed to take over of the Board presidency. I'm sure he'll appreciate , as I did, all of your support and find plenty of challenges ahead. **L. Walter M. D.**

Looking Forward ...

Steve Douglas President

In many ways, I am new to the Beulah Ambulance District and its Board of Directors ... having just formally joined it this May. In other ways, I am not new to the area or the District. I came to Pueblo County in 1985 as a planner with the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development. In 1989, I became the County's emergency management director, and served in that capacity for the next 20 years, until I retired. I have lived in what is now the Beulah Ambulance District since 1992. It is my home and where I plan to stay. My work as emergency manager included developing relationships in the Beulah area with its volunteer fire and EMS departments, water districts, School District 70, the Mountain Park Environmental Center, and others. It was my privilege to play a small role in the formal development of the Beulah Ambulance District.

I am not an EMT and never have been, but I can relate to the value of what our EMT's give to the community because of experiences I had over 30 years ago. I was a basic first aid trained driver for the volunteer ambulance department that served the very rural Wyoming community I lived and worked in at the time. As is the case here, we volunteered our time and skill to provide quality EMS care to our friends, neighbors, families, co-workers and visitors, and we did it transporting patients to hospitals that were typically 60 miles away. We did it as a team through all kinds of weather, not because we had to, but because we chose to. That is what I see happening here and it is my honor to join that team, doing what I can to help.

It is my hope that you all take care, be safe and call us when you need our help. And, if you want to join us, please do so. We can always use good volunteers. If EMS is not your "cup of tea" but you still want to volunteer your time, skill and/or resources, look around, find something that does fit, and get involved. It is a good thing to do. If you are already involved, thank you.

Treasurer's Report

The Beulah Ambulance District was created November 16, 2007. The following three years brought growth and maturity to our organization. Each year resulted in new challenges and accomplishments, allowing us to improve the service we provide to residents of the Beulah Ambulance District.

Tax revenue grew from \$80,800 in 2008 to \$95,000 in 2009 but is expected to fall to \$92,000 in 2010. We expect another decrease in 2011 because of the economic environment.

We have been aggressive in pursuing grants to help expand our ability to deliver services to the community. An aggressive, successful pursuit of grant monies in this 3-year period added to tax funds and resulted in the purchase of a new ambulance, a Lifepak 15 patient monitor/defibrillator, two training simulators, two computers and other equipment to support the District.

Grants also allowed us to hire a part-time EMT to expand recruitment, retention and training for the first 6 months of 2010. This also helped expand our training capabilities. In 2010 we anticipate more grant monies. These funds are an important part of our revenue, and the requirements for receiving them are tightening. We will take every step to continue our eligibility for grants. To continue to be eligible for grants, we must comply with a Colorado government requirement that we bill health insurers. We intend to initiate this program in the Fall of 2010, or early in 2011. Much research has gone into this effort and the details will be explained shortly.

Expenditures grew in this 3-year period as well. Specific budget figures are available at the Ambulance Office if you would like more information. In 2009 expenditures broke down as follows:

- Ambulance expenses and medical equipment and supplies 37%
- Administrative expenses 37%
- Office expenses 12%
- Professional expenses 8%
- Insurance 6%

Our goal continues to be to offer to Beulah District residents a valuable, cost-effective ambulance service. It is a responsibility we take very seriously.

Ruth Ann Amey Treasurer

Thank You, Dawn Young!

Dawn Young, our first EMS Coordinator, will be leaving us as she goes to finish up her Masters in Social Work (MSW). She joined the Beulah EMS shortly after the creation of the tax district, and has been instrumental in raising the Beulah Ambulance District to the next level of professionalism. The Board has begun the process of recruiting a new EMS Coordinator, and hopes to have that search completed this summer.

Dawn came to us after a career in the Baltimore City (Md.) Fire Department where she retired as an EMS Lieutenant and firefighter. She is certified as a National Registry Paramedic (NR EMT-P), and has been an EMT since 1991. She is also certified as an EMT instructor. She taught a variety of EMS classes at Pueblo Community College (PCC). While working at PCC she became the CPR Coordinator and was responsible for many training sites and instructors throughout Southeast Colorado.

She has also been effective in helping us recruit and retain strong volunteers. This job can be stressful, and Dawn has helped us build a healthy sense of teamwork, necessary to meet the complex demands of rapid emergency responses. Since Dawn's arrival here we have added seven new volunteers. In addition, she has brought us from a Basic Life Support (BLS) service, required to hand off 1/3 of our patients to AMR, to an Advance Life Support (ALS) service, capable of providing the highest levels of emergency medical services in the field.

Dawn has served as a mentor and role model for all of the volunteers. Her "street" experience as an EMT has been instrumental in teaching us to better identify and respond to challenging issues in the field. Dawn has built strong working relationships for our Ambulance service with other emergency service providers in Pueblo County. We will all miss her!

Looking Forward

....Ambulance Garage

Currently, the Beulah Ambulance District rents office, meeting and training room space in Beulah at 8870 Grand Avenue, directly across the street from the General Store and U.S. Post Office. We park our ALS ambulance in a building at the Beulah School and we park our BLS ambulance outside our office. We enjoy a fine relationship with both our landlord and School District 70.

We would like to consolidate all of our resources at one location, but we are not aware of any existing available facility in the Beulah Valley where we can do so. As a consequence, we have been in discussions with both our current landlord and School District 70 to create such a facility. At this point, we are in the process of developing a design and cost estimates for the facility. Once those steps are complete in draft form, we can look seriously at raising funds necessary to move forward with the process. In the meantime, we intend to continue our current arrangements at least into next year. If you have suggestions about how to best approach this task, we welcome your input.

Steve Douglas President

Meeting at the Community Center to Discuss Billing— August 22 at 3 PM

LOOKING FORWARD.....

.....at Billing Insurance

At the initial community center meetings that led to the creation of the Beulah Ambulance District, we discussed the possibilities of eventually billing insurance carriers for ambulance services. The Board over the last two years has been studying billing issues. We have discussed the options with legal counsel of the American Ambulance Association in Washington, D.C. and have concluded that billing insurers for ambulance services without requiring any payment by District residents for any deductible or co-pay amounts can and should be done. Under the plan being considered, only those patients who are not residents of the Beulah Ambulance District would be required to pay any out-of-pocket amounts not covered by insurance. Under our current process, EMS services are provided to people who are not residents of the District without any means of reimbursement; therefore those costs are absorbed by residents of the district through their property tax payments.

The practice of billing insurance companies would provide some additional revenue to the District, but equally important, it would permit the District to remain eligible to receive state grant funds that otherwise might not be available. Grant funds in the past have allowed the District to make purchases beyond the regular budget such as the new ambulance and training equipment for responders. Revenue gained from billing insurance for services could be used for increased personnel costs, purchase of personal protective clothing for responders, building expenses, matching funds for grants, etc.

So, it is time to get the ball rolling on the billing process! We believe we can do it WITHOUT out -of -pocket costs for residents of our district and we would like to talk to you about it. We have set up a time to do so at the **Beulah Community Center... Sunday, August 22 at 3 PM**. We hope to see you there.

Larry Walter MD Past President

BEULAH AMBULANCE DISTRICT

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2010

P.O. Box 133
8870 Grand Ave
Beulah CO 81023

We're on the Web!

<http://beulahambulancedistrict.org/ems/>



Emergency? Call 911

Beulah Ambulance Volunteers

**Dawn Young—EMT-P —
Coordinator**

Ken Young EMT-P

Kurt Thompson EMT-P

Trish Anderson EMT-I

Clara Long EMT-I

Corky Outhier EMT-B+

Mike Conley EMT B+

Tom Griggs EMT-B+

Nathan Anderson EMT-B

Sandy Anderson EMT-B

Barring Coughlin EMT-B

Courtney King EMT-B

Kit LeRoy First Responder

**Scott Robertshaw First Re-
sponder**

Anne Whitfield First Responder

Anne Coughlin RN

All of your EMS Team are volun-
teers other than the coordinator.

They are available to respond to
emergency calls within the district
day and night.

In addition to the classroom work
required to prepare for the Nation-
al Registry exam, our volunteers
have an ongoing annual continu-
ing education requirement.

Beulah Ambulance Special Tax District Board

President Steve Douglas (2014)

**Vice President Carol Wright
(2012)**

Secretary Anne Moulton (2014)

**Treasurer Ruth Ann Amey
(2012)**

Judy Satterfield (2014)

Volunteers Wanted! Come Be a Part of Our Team

We are always looking for more
volunteers. Our members are busi-
nessmen, housewives, retirees,
teachers, artists, nurses. Most of us
are not medical professionals, just
folks who care about serving their
community, and who have fun do-
ing so. Our ages range from 18 to
“over 65.”

Some of our volunteers have been
part of the ambulance team for
years, some for less than one.

Volunteers live within a 20-30 mi-
nute drive from Beulah. We provide
the training, the practice, continuing
education and camaraderie. If you
are interested in learning more, call
the office at **719-485-2367**.