

# Stevens County EMS & Trauma Care Council

## Distribution of Services

Stevens County, located in northeastern Washington State, is 2,481 square miles in area. Lake Roosevelt forms the western border and the Spokane River along with Lincoln County form the southern border. British Columbia, Canada is to the north with two access routes. U. S. Route 395 and State Highway 25 run the full length of the County from north to south. East/west routes include State Highway 20, State Highway 231 and several County maintained routes. These two lane roads can be dangerous to travel in many areas, particularly in the winter. The terrain is hilly and mountainous, the Colville National Forest occupies a large area in the north and the Spokane Indian Reservation is in the south of the County. Elevations range from 7, 308 feet at the peak of Abercrombie Mountain in the north to a low of 1,290 along Lake Roosevelt in the South County.

A Stevens County Profile including; General County information, population change, city and town populations, population by race, State revenue distribution to County Governments, Real estate excise tax collections, County revenue expenditure, average monthly employment and total wages, Public assistance programs, Public K-12 schools, transportation and population by age and sex is attached. It is labeled “appendix A” and was downloaded from the web page of the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

All licensed EMS agencies currently operating within Stevens County are trauma verified. A map of agencies and their respective coverage areas is also provided and is labeled “appendix B”. The following is a list of agencies.

### Licensed agencies providing First Response

Stevens County Fire District #1 (BLS, volunteer)

Marble First Response and Rescue (BLS, volunteer)

Stevens County Fire District #8 (BLS, volunteer)

Rice First Response (Stevens County Sheriff’s Ambulance) (BLS, volunteer)

(remove)

Northwest Alloys First Response (Stevens County Sheriff’s Ambulance)(BLS, paid)

National Park Service (BLS, paid)

### **Licensed agencies providing ambulance transport**

Stevens County Sheriff's Ambulance (BLS, volunteer)

Chewelah Rural Ambulance (BLS, volunteer)

Spokane Tribal Ambulance (BLS, volunteer)

Deer Park Ambulance (ALS, paid & volunteer)

### **Affiliate Licensed Agencies**

(remove)

North West Alloys (on site) (BLS, paid)

49 Degrees North Ski Patrol (on site) (BLS & ALS, paid & volunteer)

### **Unlicensed agencies providing support**

Nordic Rescue (back country & low angle rescue)

Team Rescue (vehicle/equipment extrication)

Critical Incident Stress Management (counseling support)

### **Dispatch Services**

Spokane Tribal Ambulance is dispatched by their ambulance/fire dispatch. Spokane Combined Communications Center dispatches Stevens County Fire District #1; they also dispatch Deer Park Ambulance via American Medical Response in Spokane. The Stevens County 911 Center in Colville dispatches all other agencies listed.

## **Tiered Response**

A tiered response is dispatched within first response areas (see response area map). Transporting ambulance response outside of a first response area is not supported by a tiered effort unless mutual aid is requested by that ambulance service. The first response areas were formed by fire district boundaries, or by geographic relationship between ambulance agencies and first response agencies. If an ambulance agency could obviously arrive on scene, under normal conditions, before a first response agency, a tiered response is not dispatched. These areas are addressed under “evaluated needs”.

## **ALS Rendezvous**

Northern Stevens County is not accessed by ALS rendezvous in a timely manner because of the geographic proximity to available ALS agencies. The nearest ground transporting ALS agency is 45 to 85 miles away in Deer Park. The nearest ALS helicopter-transporting agency is 75 to 120 miles away in Spokane.

Central Stevens County may rendezvous with ALS services either by ground from Deer Park, Spokane or Medstar helicopter service from Spokane in a timely manner.

Southeastern Stevens County is served by Deer Park Ambulance, which is ALS.

Spokane Tribal Ambulance and Chewelah Rural Ambulance serve Southwestern Stevens County. ALS rendezvous would be from Medstar in Spokane or Lincoln County Ambulance.

## **Evaluated Needs per Agency**

*Barney's/Orient Fire District #8* is in need of a crew strength increase of four to six additional first responders. Currently the First Responders from this Fire District are traveling to Colville for continuing education, which is a twenty to twenty five mile journey for some. An occasional visit from outside training sources would be quite beneficial. This fire district is also in dire need of light extrication equipment.

*Marble First Response and Rescue* is in need a four-wheel drive vehicle (they currently operate with a loner from the Sheriff's Ambulance). There is no extrication equipment north of Colville, so this is a priority also. They hope to upgrade to a BLS transporting agency within the next two years and then to an ILS transporting agency within four years.

*Rice First Response (Stevens County Sheriff's Ambulance)* is in need of four to eight additional First Responders. They are looking for a building to house their First Response vehicle. Light extrication is also an identified need.

*Stevens County Sheriff's Ambulance* is currently providing transport services for the entire Northern half of Stevens County. Six to ten additional EMT-B's are needed to staff the vehicle stationed in Kettle Falls. The large response area along with very long transport times places this service in great need of ILS training.

*Chewelah Rural Ambulance* is in need of eight to ten additional EMT-B's. They currently have several newly trained ILS crewmembers and would like to upgrade to an ILS verification. The nearest extrication source for this agency is Team Rescue from Colville or Fire District #1 to the south. Light extrication equipment is a need as well.

*Spokane Tribal Ambulance* is in need of additional crewmembers (EMT-B). They have been experiencing an increase in need for water rescue training and equipment as well as additional extrication equipment (hydraulic ram). Training is also a concern.

*Fire District #1* is in need of additional extrication equipment to place in stations that serve Highways 395, 231 and 291. They would like to upgrade current First Responders to EMT-B and also all EMT-B's to ILS.

*Deer Park Ambulance* provides ALS transport services in Southeastern Stevens County including but not limited to Clayton, Deer Lake, Loon Lake, Springdale and Suncrest. They would like to train additional paramedics for growth.

### **Identified unserved areas**

An area in northwest Stevens County of approximately 100 square miles, between Barney's/Orient Fire District #8 and the response area of Marble First Response and Rescue, is currently without a first response agency. Ambulance transport is dispatched from Colville or Kettle Falls with a response time to the scene of fifteen to forty minutes.

Deep Lake/Aladdin area, the northeast corner of Stevens County, an area of approximately 80 square miles, is currently without a first response agency. This area is very active with outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, boating and camping. Marble First Response and Rescue is covering this area, but the response time would be greatly reduced with an agency in the immediate area.

Pend Oreille Lakes area, east of Colville fifteen to twenty eight miles, an area of approximately 65 square miles, is currently without a first response agency. This area is also very active with outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and camping. Ambulance transport is dispatched from Colville with a response time to the scene of twenty to thirty five minutes.

Hunters/Fort Spokane area, the southwest corner of Stevens County, an area of approximately 115 square miles, is currently without a first response agency. This area is also quite active with outdoor activities including boating, hiking, hunting, fishing, jet skiing and camping. The National Park Service has both EMT-B's and First Responders who will respond in Park Service vehicles along Lake Roosevelt and surrounding area,

however this is a seasonal source of first response. Ambulance transport is dispatched from Chewelah with a response time to the scene of twenty five to forty five minutes, or Spokane Tribal Ambulance with a response time to the scene of fifteen to twenty five minutes when available.

Waitts Lake/Deer Creek area, southwest of Chewelah, an area of approximately 70 square miles, is currently without a first response agency. This area is also quite active with outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, hiking and boating. Ambulance transport is dispatched from Chewelah with a response time to the scene of twelve to twenty five minutes.

(Proposed New)

Addy area in central Stevens County, an area of approximately 70 square miles, is currently without a first response agency. Northwest Alloys covered this area until they closed down last year. Ambulance transport is dispatched from either Colville or Chewelah with a response time to the scene of twelve to twenty five minutes.

### **Identified under-served areas**

The general area of Northport, Deep Lake, Marble, Onion Creek and Flat Creek in northeastern Stevens County lies thirty to forty minutes travel time from the nearest transport service, the Sheriff's Ambulance in Colville. This area would be better served by an additional ambulance service based in Northport or Marble.

The general area, in northwest Stevens County, south of Laurier and east of Orient including the Pierre Lake area, lies thirty to forty minutes travel time from the nearest transport service, the Sheriff's Ambulance in Colville. This area would be better served by an additional ambulance service based in the northern end of Fire District #8.

The general area of Loon Lake, Springdale and Deer Lake in southern Stevens County lies fifteen to twenty minutes travel time from the nearest transport service, Chewelah Rural Ambulance in Chewelah or Deer Park Ambulance. This is a very busy area along the Highway 395 corridor. This area would be better served by an ambulance service in the Loon Lake or Springdale area.

The general area of Rice, Gifford, and Hunters in southwestern Stevens County lies twenty-five to forty minutes from the nearest transport service, the Sheriff's Ambulance in Colville or Chewelah Rural Ambulance in Chewelah. This area would better served by an additional transport service based in the Hunters or Rice area.