



CLARKS FORK VALLEY EMS FACTS



- Clarks Fork Valley Volunteer Ambulance Service was established in 1955 by William "Doc" Asbury and has
 operated continuously for nearly 60 years with local volunteers.
- There is no full-time or paid staff. The members receive a small stipend for going on calls.
- There are 11 volunteers, all of which work other jobs. 85% of our calls are staffed by 3-4 members.
- Clarks Fork Valley Ambulance was paged to approx. 206 emergency calls last year, 10 of which had to be covered by other agencies due to no available staff. This means that 10 times the patients and their families had added stress and worry while waiting longer for help. Thankfully we have mutual aid from our caring neighboring EMS services (Joliet, Red Lodge and Laurel), but as stated before this unfortunately adds extra time before patient care is initiated. Also, while covering a call in our area, that may leave their district short staffed.
- A typical 911 call lasts up to 3.5-4 hours. In most instances, Bridger doesn't have any EMS service available during that time.
- On an average, Clarks Fork Valley Ambulance collects 50% of what is billed. This comes from private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and patient pay. We also receive \$12,000 yearly from Carbon County in the form of PILT funding, (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) as well as approx. \$10,000 in subscription services. Reimbursement rates have dropped significantly over the years but the costs of maintaining the service have risen.

EMS is not funded as an essential service by the state of Montana.

What does this mean?

- There is no state or federal funding for ambulance services.
- It means that if you or a loved one are sick or injured and you call 911, there is no requirement that an ambulance will respond.
- Outside of running calls operating and maintaining a Licensed Ambulance Service takes approx. 4-500 administrative hours a year.
- The average cost of a new ambulance without any supplies or equipment is \$250,000.
- The cost of all supplies and equipment to take care of just about every medical or trauma emergency is approximately \$100,000 for one ambulance.







PLEASE VOTE JUNE 4TH

Carbon County EMS Agencies (Clarks Fork Valley, Joliet and Red Lodge) have proposed an EMS mill levy to support ambulance services within the County. Mill levy funds are intended to be distributed to each agency to use for their staffing and operational needs. Each agency will maintain its individuality.

The proposed mill levy of 18 mills is calculated to be:

\$2.03/Month or \$24.36/Year for a home valued at \$100,000.00

\$4.05/Month or \$48.60/Year for a home valued at \$200,000.00

\$6.09/Month or \$73.08/Year for a home valued at \$300,000.00

\$12.15/Month or \$145.80/Year for a home valued at \$600,000.00

Calculate your costs. Go to: carboncountymtems.org

THE MILL LEVY WILL HELP US:

- Offer reasonable recruitment and retention compensation for new volunteers and existing personnel which will lead to better coverage for our local area.
- Allow us to replace, upgrade, and maintain our equipment, supplies, and rigs as needed.

We hope to address any questions, comments, or concerns through informational meetings in all three communities. Dates and times for meetings can be found at carboncountymtems.org

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS