



AdaCountyParamedics
We're in it for Life!



Annual Report 2015

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Message from our Chief

Darby Weston

“Ada County Paramedics continues to move onward and upward. This coming year will be met with enthusiasm and confidence.”

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2015 Annual Report. Over the course of 2015, our department has continued to make huge strides in the pre-hospital healthcare industry.

Our second year of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has empirically proven to be efficient and mutually beneficial. With seven surrounding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies performing as one, we've each enhanced the system's overall effectiveness benefitting the many communities we serve.

In addition to the progresses we've seen in JPA this year, Ada County Paramedics also finished renovations on one of our 13 Ada County stations. This 24-hour station, located in Boise's historic North End, was outdated and in dire need of updates for our crews' safety and comfort. The renovation eliminated interior asbestos and brought the structure up to code. Wiring and electrical updates have increased the building's safety and helped to reduce our operating costs. The building's exterior was cosmetically overhauled to better reflect the beauty of the surrounding neighborhood—and large windows were installed to allow for more natural light. The project was built to LEEDS standards, which ensures our station is highly efficient with minimal environmental impact. Plans for additional station renovations are underway as we continually work to improve our department to better serve the community in which we live and work.

Ada County Paramedics continues to move onward and upward. This coming year will be met with enthusiasm and confidence. –Chief Darby Weston

Contributing to our Community

Humanity is one of the values Ada County Paramedics is extremely passionate about. Our employees demonstrate humanity both when caring for our patients, and in our community interactions.

Ada County Paramedics Association

The Ada County Paramedics Association is made up of a group of Ada County Paramedics employees who pool funds from their own paychecks into a bank account each month. The funds are used to help make our community and other's lives better through financial assistance, donations and public education.

Paramedics and Plastic Bags

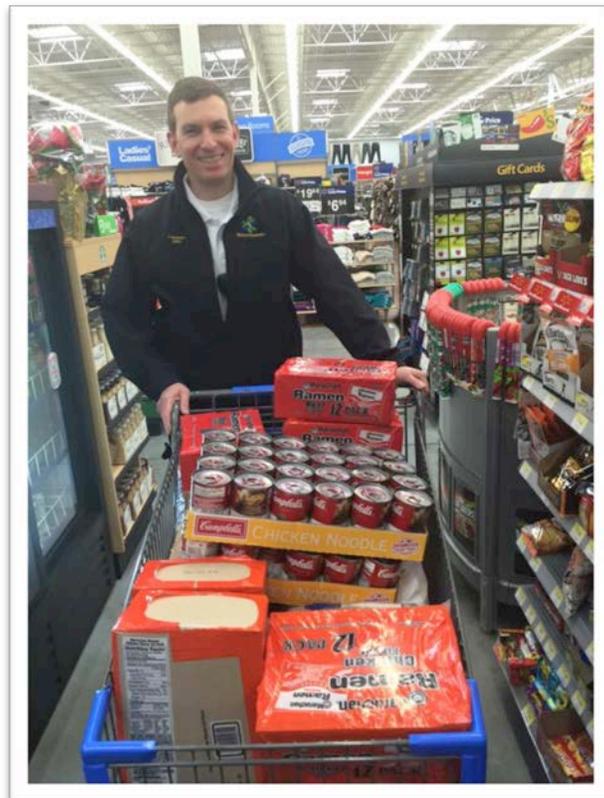
In early 2015, the city of Boise began to see an increasingly dire issue with those facing homelessness. As an agency, we started brainstorming ways we could offer help to those in need beyond our duties as first responders. We began the "Paramedics and Plastic Bags" initiative with meager funds (from our Association) and a lot of heart. The Paramedics and Plastic Bags program ensures we have "care kits" available on each of our ambulances. Each of the kits is stocked with healthy snacks, water, hygienic items and weather-specific items (like hand warmers for winter and sunscreen during the summer.) Our crews hand these kits out to anyone we meet who may benefit. The program was so wildly successful and well received, it's become sustainable through in-kind donations from our community partners and other local organizations.

7 Cares

During KTVB's annual 7 Cares event, Ada County Paramedics employees filled an entire shopping cart to the brim with healthy food and necessary staples that we then donated 7 Cares, benefitting local Idaho food banks.



Above, gallon-sized plastic bags are packed with necessities like healthy snacks, water and hygienic items. These "care kits" are kept on each of our ambulances to hand out to anyone we meet who may benefit.



Above, Ada County Paramedic Dallas Burnham fills a grocery cart with donations for the annual KTVB event.

Contributing to Our Community Cont.

Toy Drive

Each December Ada County Paramedics organize an all-county toy drive along with the various departments that make up Ada County. After the toys are collected, Ada County Paramedics employees and the Ada County Commissioners meet at a local hospital on the morning of December 24th to deliver gifts to children who are hospitalized during the holiday season.

Annual SueB Memorial 5k Run

Ada County Paramedics employees partnered with the Women's and Children's Alliance again this year to help bring awareness to domestic violence and celebrate healthy relationships. The sixth annual SueB Memorial 5K was held October 4th and had more than 240 participants.



Above, Ada County Paramedics get ready to deliver a gurney-full of toys and gifts to children hospitalized during the holidays.



Above, Ada County Paramedic Cameo Akins comforts an ill child at the hospital while delivering gifts collected during the all-county toy drive.



Above, a powerful image from the Annual SueB Memorial 5K Run, helping bring awareness to domestic violence

In the News

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Ada County Paramedics launch program to help homeless

BOISE — There's a new idea in town when it comes to helping out the homeless. A local agency says the number of people living in tents and on the streets is on the rise. So, Ada County Paramedics decided to try something new. They've launched a program to help homeless people. The idea didn't come from a shelter or homeless organization. It came from the Ada County Paramedics. Their job is to provide care and transportation to people in need. Now they're offering a new service as well. They're offering to help homeless people get clean. It may not seem like much, just things like shampoo soap and Band-Aids. "It's been reported recently by the Ada County as well," said one of the paramedics. "What we're doing is something that hopefully no one else is doing. Staff members are going to be providing these kits to people who need them."

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CPR flash mob kicks off Ada County Paramedics

FLASHMOB FOR ADA COUNTY PARAMEDICS

JEMS | JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

HOME NEWS PATIENT CARE ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP OPERATIONS MAJOR INCIDENTS

Ada County Paramedics Battalion Chief Named Community Champion by Local News Group

Fri, Nov 20, 2015

Ada County Paramedics Battalion Chief, Andrea Cobler, has been named "Community Champion" in a contest presented by KTVB and Idaho Central Credit Union for her hard work and commitment to the community she serves.

Cobler, who has worked for Ada County Paramedics since 1994 and in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) field since 1989 said she's humbled and grateful to be recognized as a "Community Champion."

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Ada County Paramedics create care kits to hand out

An example of a care kit that Ada County Paramedics will hand out to provide to those in need. Photo courtesy of Ada County Paramedics.

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Ada County delivers toys to St. Luke's

ADA COUNTY DELIVERS TOYS TO ST. LUKE'S

Ada County delivers toys to St. Luke's.

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Ada County Paramedics Presented with American Heart Association Award

Tue, Sep 1, 2015

BOISE, August 2015 – Ada County Paramedics was honored by the American Heart Association (AHA), in a Boise ceremony, for the organization's work to improve heart attacks.

Representatives from the American Heart Association presented Ada County Paramedics with the prestigious "Mission: Lifeline EMS Award" for patients seen in 2014. The award is the highest level of success awarded by AHA in improving procedures for (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) heart attacks.

...Mayes said the organization is overjoyed with the award and the impact it has on the lives of their patients.

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WEATHER SPORTS FEATURES STATION POLITICS IDAHO LIVING

Ada County Paramedics tactical team ready for front line response

BY KBOI WEB STAFF | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 2015

ADVERTISMENT

TRENDING

- Sheriff on missing toddler DeOrr Kunz's parents: 'They know where he is absolutely'
- Video: Saeed lovingly embraced as he reunites with family
- Dangerous strain of 'dog flu' coming for Idaho's canines
- Exclusive Video: P... Saeed Ab...

Public Education

Ada County Paramedics continued to lead the community in its' commitment to public education in 2015.

School Visits

Ada County Paramedics was invited to **19** schools and/or childcare facilities in 2015. During these visits, we teach children what paramedics do, how some of our medical devices work, let them tour our ambulances and explain our job is to help if they're ever in an emergency.

The Beat Goes On

In partnership with Saint Alphonsus hospital, we taught over 100 people how to potentially save someone's life with hands-only CPR. Participants were instructed on proper techniques while compressing manikins to the beat of "Stayin' Alive."

Sidewalk CPR

In 2015 Ada County Paramedics held numerous free hands-only "sidewalk CPR" events for the public. Hands-only CPR is just as effective as traditional CPR, which includes mouth-to-mouth breaths, but can be much easier to learn.

"Public education is another way we serve our community."

-Chief Darby Weston



Public Education Cont.

National County Week

Each year the Ada County Commissioners hold an open house at the Ada County Courthouse to celebrate "National County Week."

During this countywide event, Ada County Paramedics teach the public about our Vital Ride Ambulance Membership program and provide tours of our ambulances.

Our Special Operations Team also showcases their high-angle rope rescue skills by rappelling from the roof of the Ada County Courthouse and our Tactical Medical Team and HazMed Teams display their equipment and offer overviews of their teams' responsibilities.

Surprise Hands-Only CPR Flash Mob

In 2015 we tried something new to engage the public while simultaneously teaching how to potentially save someone's life. We coordinated a surprise flash mob at the Village in Meridian. As soon as "Stayin' Alive" came over the loudspeaker, all our volunteers, with manikins in tow, converged on the center square and performed hands-only CPR in unison! We received local and national media coverage on this event.

Car Seat Checks

Ada County Paramedics staffs two certified cars seat technicians who offer free car seat inspections to anyone interested in learning how to safely and properly install a seat.

In 2015 alone, our technicians inspected a total of **84** car seats to help ensure the seats' position and angle were correct and safely installed.



Above, Ada County Paramedic Ryan Jensen displays Hazmed equipment. **Middle,** the crowd practices hands-only CPR at the surprise flash mob. **Bottom,** Ada County Paramedic Mike McGill wears his Special Operations Gear.

Vital Ride Ambulance Membership

Ada County Paramedics knows unexpected medical emergencies can be scary and expensive. But we *never* want that to hinder someone from calling 911 in an emergency. That's why we started the **Vital Ride Ambulance Membership** program. Vital Ride Members know when they call 911, after their insurance is billed, they'll owe us **nothing**. And, if members don't have insurance, the most they'll ever pay us is \$100 per hospital trip— even if the ambulance bill is thousands of dollars or more. One year of Vital Ride only costs \$60 *and* it covers the entire household!

Total Vital Ride Sales 2015: \$104,595.00

Total Vital Ride Sales 2014: \$97,240.40

Vital Ride Membership Example:

Billed For:
Emergency Ambulance Transport

Total Ambulance Bill:
\$2,300.00

Amount Patient's Insurance Paid:
\$1,840

Amount Patient Owes Us:
\$460

Amount Vital Ride Patient Owes Us:
\$0



Community Paramedics

In 2015 the Ada County Community Paramedics (CPs) worked to move the CP program forward to help patients find appropriate resources post-hospital discharge. Ada County Community Paramedics continues to be among the leaders of the Community Health Emergency Medical Services (CHEMS) initiative in our state.

Legislation

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Idaho Legislature passed a bill defining the terms “Community Health EMS” (CHEMS), “Community Paramedic” and “Community EMT.” Prior to this year, nothing existed in state law that allowed or disallowed for the provision of these services. With this new law in place, the aforementioned terms are now defined, which allows the liability exposure for providing these services to be consistent with language pertaining to the provision of 911 services.

Psychiatric Emergency Team (PET)

In 2014, the Ada County Community Paramedics developed a pilot program with the help of the local law enforcement agencies and Health and Welfare’s Mobile Crisis department, to respond to psychiatric emergencies. This program continued to grow and evolve during 2015 and ultimately provides patients with the appropriate psychiatric care they need, as opposed to the historical approach of taking every patient to the Emergency Department. One Community Paramedic personnel staffs the PET program from 1400-2200 daily. PET has been extremely successful and many other agencies in the nation have taken notice of our accomplishments in this area. In late 2015 Community Paramedic Dawn Rae, was asked to write an article for the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) highlighting the Ada County Community Paramedics work ensuring psychiatric patients receive appropriate care. The article is to be published in the spring of 2016.

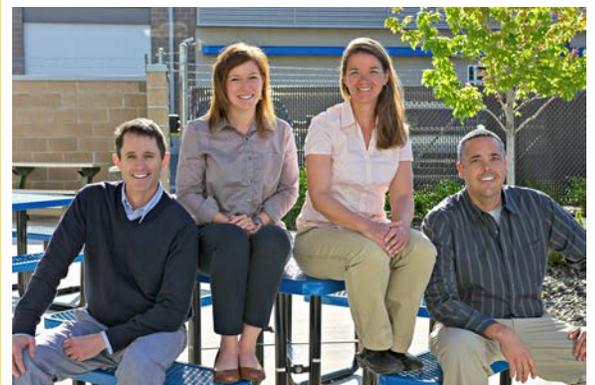
Community Paramedics Aligning Care Reducing Costs Engaging Patients and Families (CARE) Program

This pilot program, which is being funded through a grant provided by Saint Alphonus Health Services (SAHS), is a collaboration between SAHS, Pacific Source and Ada County Paramedics. Within this program, our Community

Paramedics perform follow-up visits for patients discharged from the Saint Alphonus Emergency Department. There are several inclusionary and exclusionary criteria that must be met prior to patient enrollment into CP CARE—each developed to specifically target patient types who may be in most need of this program. Any emergency department physician or nurse can enroll a patient in CP CARE. The goal of this program is to help patients navigate the healthcare system, learn how to better manage their health and connect patients with their primary care provider after being released from the hospital.



Above, Ada County Community Paramedic Dawn Rae (right) & Boise Police Department Officer Josh Magnuson (center) discuss a PET Team call with a Mobile Crisis representative (left). **Below**, Ada County Community Paramedics Mark Babson, Rachel Porter, Dawn Rae and Jeremiah Wickham



Operations

General Operations

As a department we take our responsibility to our patients and taxpayers very seriously. Our mission and values guide each decision we make.



Our Mission

To care for you like we care for our own, we deliver pre-hospital healthcare focused on our values

Our Values

Humanity Integrity Trust
Excellence Stewardship

Station 17 Renovation Completion

In 2015, Station 17 located at 1666 Ridebaugh St. in Boise's historic North End was renovated and then reopened for service in May. While the station is well situated to serve the needs of our community, the structure was over 60 years old and in need of an update. The mid-century brick house was transformed into a more functional, modern paramedic station, brought up to city code and built to LEEDS standards to provide a high-efficiency structure with minimal environmental impact.

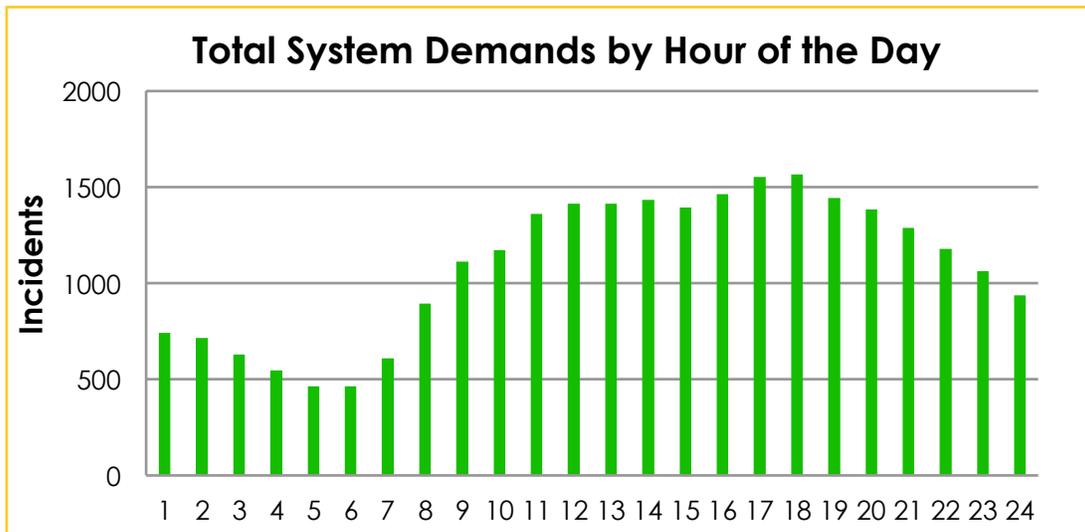


Above, Chief Weston and the Ada County Commissioners at the Station 17 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

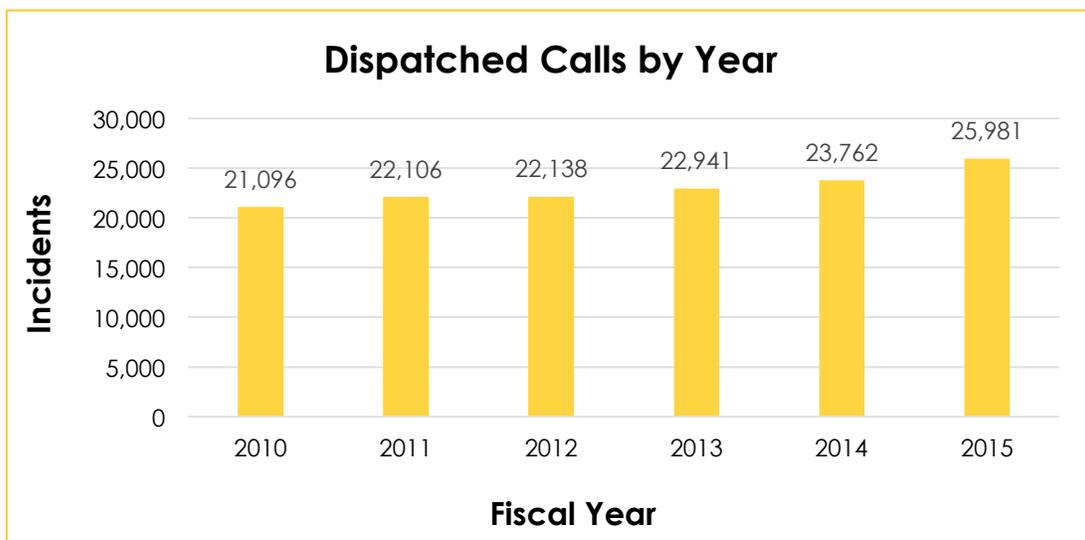
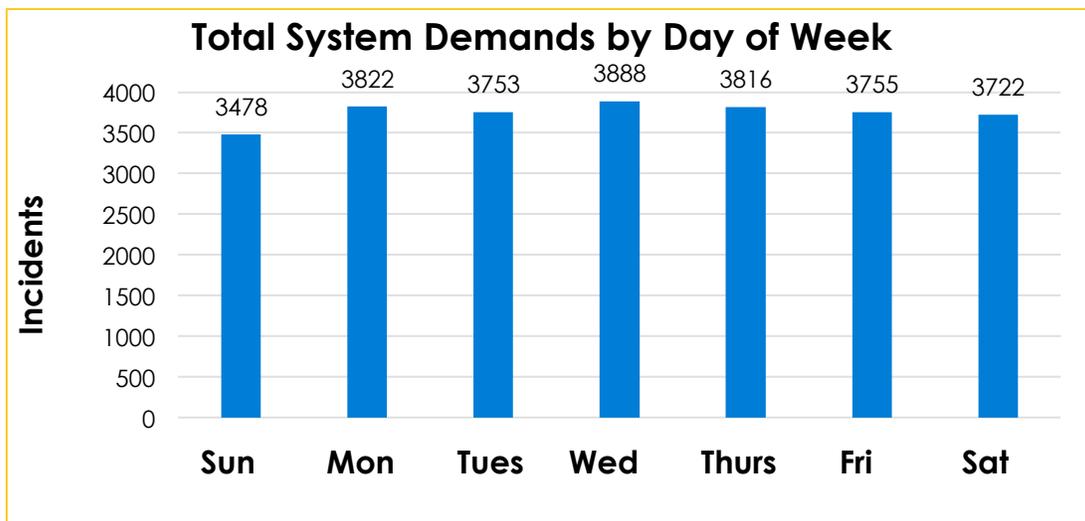


Above, Boise Fire Chief, Ada County Commissioners, Chief of Staff & Ada County Paramedics Deputy Chiefs Rayne and Eccard at the Station 17 Open House

Operations Cont.



Hours of the Day

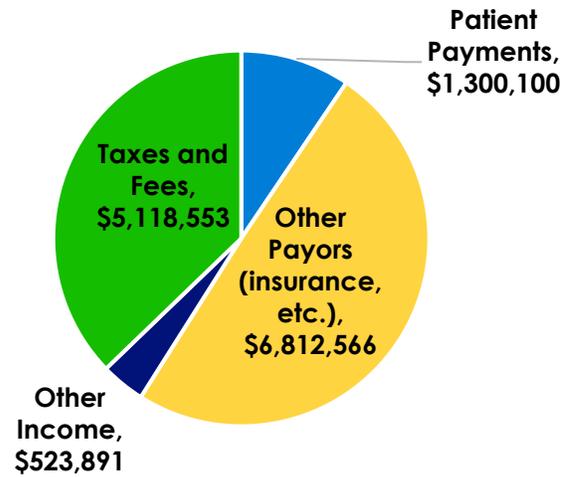


Operations Cont.

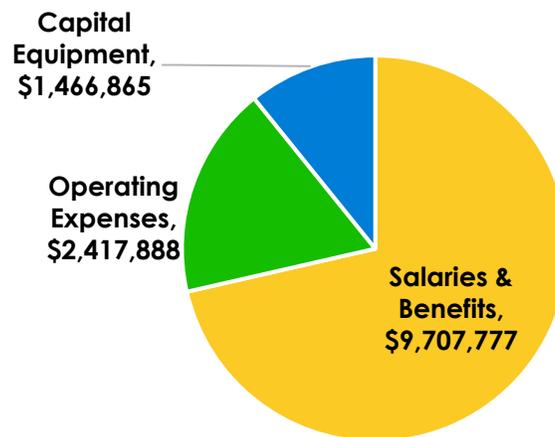
Operational Quick Facts

Total Call Volume	25,981
Total Ambulances	28
Ambulances Staffed/Day	9-12
Crew Staffed/Ambulance	2
Number of Stations	13
Number of Employees	133

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2015



Expenses for Fiscal Year 2015



Above, Ada County Paramedics Tactical Medical Team members Bo Madlinger and JR McGee display equipment at the National County Day open house.

Clinical Impression	Number of Patients
Traumatic injury	5404
Generalized Weakness	1760
Behavioral / Psychiatric Disorder	1674
Abdominal Pain/Problems	1288
Pain (Non-Traumatic)	1234
Altered Level of Consciousness	1110
Chest Pain / Discomfort	1046
Respiratory Distress	1025
Seizure	828
Syncope / Fainting	708

Education Department

In 2015, Ada County Paramedics' Education Department worked diligently to further integrate our JPA training. With a countywide training platform, we're able to provide an even higher level of first responder efficiency in a collaborative system.

American Heart Association Training Center

Ada County Paramedics is a certified American Heart Association Training Center—wherein we teach CPR, Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) to our own employees and first responder partners. Providing these certifications ensures Ada County's first responders receive the highest level, and most up-to-date pre-hospital medical education available. In 2015, we taught a total of 139 American Heart Association certified classes with a total of 950 students.

Joint Powers Agreement Training

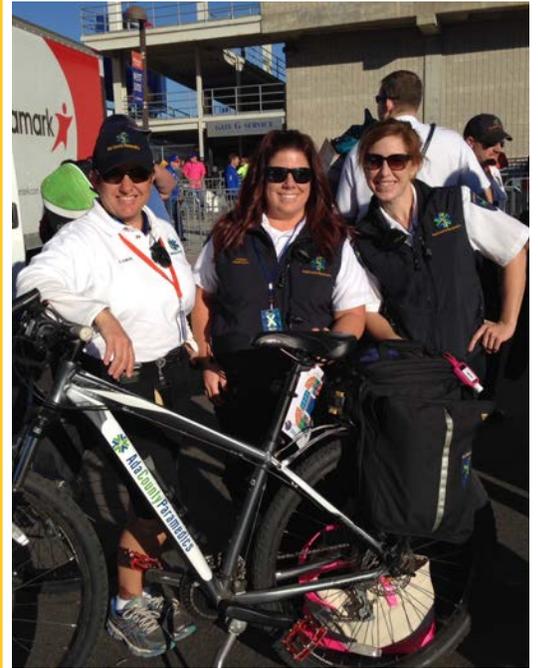
In 2015, Ada County Paramedics developed a two-year joint training plan for members of the Joint Powers Agreement. This two-year plan will ensure each EMS first responder across Ada County receives the same education and training, and abides by the same protocols in pre-hospital healthcare.

Simulation Lab Upgrade

During 2015, Ada County Paramedics increased our Simulation Lab capabilities. Simulation labs are imperative to our paramedics and EMTs education, as they provide hands-on training in simulated situations. We can program our simulation manikins to have heart attacks or any variety of health issues to ensure our paramedics and EMTs are proficient in caring for any patient type in the real world. With this year's upgrade, our simulation capabilities have gone wireless, which means our training is no longer confined to our headquarters. We're now able to conduct mobile simulation training.

Idaho State University and College of Western Idaho

In partnership with Idaho State University, Ada County Paramedics provides curriculum and instructors for the university's accredited clinical paramedic program. Field internships are available for both ISU and CWI students. During 2015, we oversaw almost 20 student internships.



Above. Ada County Paramedics Andrea Cobler, Jessica Vanderpool and Rachel Porter pose for a quick photo while working a Boise State University standby.



Above. Ada County Paramedic Jessica Vanderpool and an Idaho State University student stop for a photo during training.



Ada County Paramedics Mission

**To care for you like we care for our own, we deliver
pre-hospital healthcare focused on our values**

Ada County Paramedics Values

Humanity Integrity Trust Excellence Stewardship



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