

Bannock County Ambulance District: Rural ALS Fact Sheet

Launching 24/7 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Service in July 2026

- **Goal:** Deliver faster, higher-level care for residents and improve emergency outcomes in rural communities.

Overview

South Bannock County will transition from a volunteer-based Basic Life Support (BLS) system to a fully staffed Advanced Life Support (ALS) system.

Current System (BLS): Provides essential non-invasive interventions such as CPR, basic airway management, and automated defibrillation.

New System (ALS): Staffed by Paramedics capable of invasive life-saving procedures. This includes cardiac monitoring, intubation, administering IV medications, and advanced trauma care.

- The ALS unit will be based at the new McCammon Fire Station, providing 24/7 emergency coverage to Inkom, Lava Hot Springs, Downey, Arimo, McCammon, and Swan Lake.
- It is estimated that this unit will respond to **approximately 500 to 600 calls per year** in rural Bannock County.

Why the Change Is Needed

Volunteer Coverage Reliability

- **Volunteer reliability has dropped since 2019**, reflecting a national trend in reduced volunteerism.
- **Combined volunteer reliability across Inkom, Lava Hot Springs, and Downey is only 53.1%**, meaning nearly half the time a local volunteer unit cannot respond. See the statistics for each individual zone in the chart below:

Volunteer Zone	Reliability in FY2019 (Responding to calls in their zone)	Reliability in FY2025 (Responding to calls in their zone)	Change
Inkom	62.1%	18.7%	-43.4%
Lava	85.6%	52.7%	-32.9%
Downey	92.1%	83.7%	-8.4%

Response Time Challenges

- **Turnout time** (time from call received to ambulance en route):
 - Volunteers: **13 minutes, 20 seconds or less** (90% of the time)
 - Full-time ALS: **1 minute, 30 seconds**
- Some volunteers respond from neighboring towns, adding travel time to reach the local station.
- Volunteer-staffed unit arrives first only **33.87% of the time**; remaining responses come from Pocatello units.

Projected ALS Response Improvements

Placing a full-time ALS unit at McCammon is projected to reduce travel times significantly:

Location	Time Saved
Inkom	3 min 10 sec
Downey	22 min 45 sec
Lava Hot Springs	25 min 45 sec

- With a local ALS unit, ambulances will be ready for **more than 90% of calls** within south Bannock County.
- This ensures **faster, higher-level care**, improving outcomes for heart attacks, strokes, severe trauma, and other life-threatening emergencies.

Key Takeaways

- Volunteer EMS availability is declining nationally and locally; rural Bannock County reliability is now **53%** across key zones.
- Volunteer response times are limited by travel from home/work to the station (**>13 minutes**) compared to staffed ALS (**1.5 minutes**).
- First response currently comes from volunteers only **34% of the time**; Pocatello units cover the remainder.
- Locating a 24/7 ALS unit in McCammon will **dramatically reduce response times** and improve coverage reliability for all residents.