

## **Why does Morrow County Health District want to be the ambulance service provider for the entire county?**

MCHD has been investing in ambulance services countywide for the last 30 years.

When the District was formed, there were three ambulances to serve the entire county and there was one staff member employed full-time at Pioneer Memorial Hospital whose duties also included ambulance service. The service was primarily operated by volunteers.

Today, we operate seven ambulances countywide and employ 25 full-time and approximately 35 part-time EMS personnel. Our ambulance service is completely integrated countywide meaning that our ambulances and our personnel can and do serve any part of Morrow County, not just their primary location. Our crews use an app called Active 9-1-1, which allows for instant communication with all EMS personnel, ensuring that the right level of service is always available where it is needed. In addition to our ambulances, we have four Quick Response Teams established to serve remote parts of our county.

The services our EMS teams provide don't stop there. Our crews also provide:

- Community paramedicine services, including emergency department follow-up calls, welfare checks, blood pressure checks, health education, and assistance connecting to other service providers and resources.
- Staff and ambulances for local events, including Morrow County Fair & Rodeo, the 9/11 stair climb, bull riding, OHV park races, and school sporting events.
- Free and at-cost first aid, CPR, and Good Babysitting training to local entities.
- Training on the AEDs and LifeVac kits which MCHD has placed throughout Morrow County as part of the community benefit program.
- In Heppner, EMTs provide services to patients of Pioneer Memorial Hospital as emergency department techs.
- In Boardman and Irrigon, EMTs provide clinical support to Boardman Immediate Care and Irrigon Medical Clinic, which includes staff training and assistance with patients.

We didn't get here overnight. It has taken years of investment in our staff, equipment, and facilities. The amazing team of EMS professionals that we employ weren't easy to find. Establishing our team has involved training community members to become drivers and EMTs, investing in staff education, and recruiting far and wide.

When asked why Morrow County is re-writing the Ambulance Service Area Plan, they have often stated that they need a new plan to comply with Oregon Administrative Rules. This is misleading because the 2021 Ambulance Service Area Plan (approved by both Morrow County and the Oregon Health Authority) was certified by OHA as complying with the necessary requirements. This plan was submitted to OHA by the previous County



# MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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Administrator and was voted on publicly by the three previous Commissioners. Every plan prior has undergone a similar process of approval by both the County and the Oregon Health Authority.

We firmly believe that we are the best provider to serve all of Morrow County. We do not want to see these investments lost or services reduced.

302 Wilson Lane  
**Boardman**, OR 97818



705 N Main Ave NE  
**Irrigon**, OR 97844



Quick Response Team  
**Lexington**, OR



Quick Response Team  
**lone**, OR

564 E Pioneer Drive  
**Heppner**, OR 97836



160 West Main Street  
**lone**, OR 97843



Quick Response Team  
**Blake's Ranch**, Heppner, OR



OHV Park Medical Station  
**Heppner**, OR