



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 3, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Lake Louise EMS Service: The following brief explains current Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage for the "Lake Louise" areas within the Borough.

The Lake Louise region represents one of the most challenging areas for public safety response on the road system within the Borough, primarily due to distance and low population density. The closest on-duty ambulance responds from the Palmer station.

To improve service to the area's residents and visitors, Borough entered into an agreement with Delta Medical Transport (DMT) to provide EMS for the areas of Borough past Mile 15 on Lake Louise Road. The most recent agreement was signed in May 2022 and was good through fiscal year 2027.

DMT was being subsidized by Cross Road Medical Center to provide EMS service in Glennallen. They stationed an advanced life support (paramedic) capable ambulance at the clinic (187 Glenn Hwy). That unit, which has an approximate drive time of 50 minutes to 1 hour (43 miles) to Lake Louise, has been the primary coverage for the area, with the Borough resources supporting them if they are unavailable.

Our estimated call volume from this area is approximately 4 to 6 calls per calendar year. The large majority of patients are transferred to air medical resources such as LifeMed; very few are transported by ground.

In late April 2024, it came to our attention that DMT may be withdrawing from Glennallen at the end of the fiscal year. Initial attempts to contact them were unsuccessful, and we did not receive any formal notice regarding our agreement. On May 1, 2024, Cross Road Health Ministries (CRHM) issued a press release confirming they could not continue funding DMT's services.

In the meantime, Copper River EMS (CREMS) began to re-incorporate. They were an active service for several years. The Borough had a preliminary agreement with them, similar to one with DMT, back in 2018, prior to DMT taking over in Glennallen, but they terminated it when they stopped covering the area. With the news out of CRHM, they became active again. They re-established contact with the Borough in the first week of May, asking for a new agreement to

cover the Lake Louise area. Our agreement with DMT is for \$15,000 per year, and CREMS is asking for \$50,000 per year.

On June 24, CREMS voted to stand up Advanced Life Support 911 Ambulance Service for the entire Copper River service area, including Glenallen, effective July 1. CREMS will have one ambulance that is housed at the Cross Road Clinic. There is a second ambulance at Kenny Lake, 40 miles SE of Glennallen. They have two paid on-call providers available 24/7. Response time to the Lake Louise area will be about an hour when available.

CREMS stated they will not transport patients to Mat-Su Regional Medical Center. CREMS stated that for patients that they could not transfer to air-medical or take to Cross Road, they were working on establishing an agreement with a private ambulance service, to intercept with them on the Glenn Highway and manage the transport to the hospital. We are working through all of this and in the meantime there are currently no official mutual aid agreements in place for the Lake Louise region. Any calls to this area will receive a standard eastern response: Palmer / Rescue / LifeMed. Any call in that area of the Borough will receive a Borough response if an emergency occurs. If a future agreement is reached with CREMS then that will be implemented formally for first response.

We are in regular contact with representatives from the Lake Louise Community Council and restock their local first aid bags and AED equipment yearly. Additionally, DES will be in attendance at the next Lake Louise Community Council meeting, which is on Sunday, July 14 to address any immediate concerns or questions they have.

State Budget Update: From a review of the Governor's vetoes in the State capital budget, https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/25_budget/PDFs/SB187_Veto_Summary_6.28.2024_6-28-24.pdf, the following items were affected in the valley: Big Lake Lions Club debt repayment for \$300,000; Skeetawk snowmaking machine for \$300,000; MSB maintain and enhance local fisheries for \$2,500,000; and Mat-Su College mechanical, electrical and interior systems for \$597,000.

Personal Use Firewood: An assembly member inquired about the availability of personal-use firewood through the Borough. Please see the e-Commerce page for more information at <https://ecommerce.matsugov.us/Pages/CD/PersonalUse/AreaList.aspx>.

The current Borough personal use firewood areas with online permitting are Burma Road, Burnt Butte, Gonder Road, Lode Drive, Point MacKenzie Road South, Rex Bell Road, and Tuxedo Avenue.

Several small-scale construction projects are being done by local non-profit organizations where the volume of firewood is too small to justify designating sites. In those cases, the groups are required to ensure the firewood is utilized and not left in the woods (e.g., Curry Ridge Riders—clearing half an acre for a storage building near MP 120 Parks Hwy and Almond Lake Trail parking—clearing half an acre for a parking area in Willow).

There are intermittent Borough construction projects, during which staff evaluate the potential for the public to retrieve the firewood against the cost of making the wood available to the public and the logistics of having the public gather wood at an active construction site or public facility. For example, at a pathway along Mountain Trails Drive, wood will be stacked along the right-of-way and posted as free firewood for the public. Anyone interested in firewood may contact Emerson Krueger at (907) 861-7867, as State and private options are also available.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [Personal Use road trips provide salmon harvest opportunities](#)
Frontiersman

Wildland Fires

- [Crews battle Montana Creek fire along Parks Highway](#)
ADN
- [Multiple wildfires across the state cause for growing concern](#)
Alaska News Source

Roads

- [Matanuska River undercuts Glenn Highway](#)
ADN
- [Glenn Highway fully reopened in erosion damaged stretch near Sutton](#)
ADN
- [Glacier View car launch faces uncertain future due to riverbank erosion](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Elections

- [Mat-Su officials are looking for 2024 election volunteers](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Opioids

- [Supreme Court blocks opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma](#)
KDLG

Law

- [Supreme-court made it harder for federal agencies to regulate](#)
NPR
- [Justices grill attorneys as correspondence. School case reaches Alaska Supreme Court](#)
Alaska Public Media
- [US Supreme Court decision overturning chevron doctrine could have major impacts in AK](#)
ADN

Community

- [Popular street fair paused due to safety issues](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [Local vendors offered space in light of Friday Fling postponement](#)
Frontiersman

State Budget

- [Dunleavy announces budget vetoes and keeps \\$175M in extra school funding](#)
ADN

Media

- [Recently launched news outlet aims to expand coverage of Mat-Su Borough](#)
Alaska Public Media

MSB Facebook

- [Montana Creek Fire Updates](#) Reach 23k
- [Settler's Bay Crocker Creek Road Closure](#) Reach 14k