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Ada County Paramedics Welcomes 15 New Graduates to the Department

(Boise, Idaho) – On Friday, November 7, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners will welcome four new Paramedics and eleven new Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians to the Ada County Paramedics department as they officially graduate from the department’s rigorous year-long training course. **Members of the media and public are invited to attend a brief graduation ceremony that will be held at 1pm in the 1st floor public hearing room at the Ada County Courthouse located at 200 W. Front Street in downtown Boise.**

“We are pleased to see so many students excel in this course,” said Ada County Paramedics Director Troy Hagen. “The mission of the Ada County Paramedics Departments is to enhance the health, well-being, and quality-of-life of the people living in Ada County. Based on the high-marks this graduating class has received, I am confident these men and women will be incredible assets to our organization.”

Graduating paramedic students have spent the past year attending regularly scheduled classes designed to test their knowledge and skills. In order to be accepted into the course, students must first possess Advanced Emergency Medical Technician certification. The course work covers three primary areas:

Classroom Training – This class includes anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, cardiology, pharmacology and other topics. Each student is required to pass the classroom portion of this course with an 80% average in every subject area.

Clinical Training – This segment of the course requires each student to assist hospital personnel as they rotate through many different areas of local hospitals. Those areas include the emergency room, the operating room, labor and delivery, cardiology, and pediatrics.

Paramedic Field Training – This portion of the class requires each student to complete an internship with a working Paramedic. Internships last several months and allow the students to work very closely with experienced Paramedics in the field. This segment forces students to apply all aspects of their training learned so far. Students remain interns until they have proven they possess the skills and behaviors necessary to be a licensed Paramedic.

After completing the three phases of course work, each student must also pass a rigorous national exam before they are given a state license and allowed to begin their careers as Paramedics. Paramedics who graduate from Ada County’s Paramedics Training Course are required to work for the department for at least two years following their graduation date.

The Ada County Paramedics Department currently employs 107 Paramedics and certified EMT’s who are supervised by a team of 13 Field Supervisors. Each year the department responds to more than 21,000 calls from 12 Paramedic Stations covering all 1,060 square miles of Ada County and its six cities.