



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **LIVINGSTON HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY TRAUMA HOSPITAL DESIGNATION RENEWED**

Livingston HealthCare announced that its Community Trauma Hospital designation from Montana's State Trauma Care Committee (STCC) has been renewed.

"This certification shows that our emergency personnel follow a strict set of emergency care standards to maintain the highest level of care to improve patient outcomes and the chances of survival," explains Tina Barker, RN, BSN, Trauma Program Coordinator at Livingston HealthCare. The three-year certification also provides standards for care and quality improvement in the emergency department's collaboration with pre-hospital personnel, other departments in the hospital, and regional trauma committee members.

"In Park County, accidents are the third leading cause of death for all ages after cancer and heart disease," said CEO Sam Pleshar. "We have made this commitment because of what it can mean for our patients and this community."

Trauma center designation guarantees immediate availability of surgeons, anesthesia, physician specialists, trauma nurses, and resuscitation life support equipment 24 hours a day to care for severely injured patients. The designation also includes a commitment to staff education and training on advanced trauma skills. All emergency room physicians and hospital RNs are required to be trained in areas such as advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, and advanced trauma life support.

Trauma patients are so designated by their injuries, vital signs, and/or mechanism of injuries. Examples include motor vehicle accidents, severe head injuries, or amputations. The number of trauma cases treated at Livingston HealthCare is on the rise. In 2010, there were 48 trauma cases, mostly motor vehicle accidents, in the Livingston area, which consists of Gardiner, Cooke City, Mammoth, Clyde Park and Wilsall. This is a 13% increase since 2007.

The Community Trauma Hospital designation does not change referral patterns for the hospital. Barker emphasized that patients who need more specialized care will still be transferred to larger facilities. “This does not mean that we will try to take care of patients here that we don’t have the advanced resources for,” she added. “But it does mean that we’ll be ready for those patients and we can better prepare and stabilize them until they get to the care they need.”

Billings Clinic and St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings (Level II Trauma Facilities) are the major referral centers for Livingston and eastern Montana. If patients need a higher level of specialized care, they may be transferred to Denver, Idaho Falls, Salt Lake City, or Seattle.

The Community Trauma Hospital designation was awarded by Montana’s State Trauma Care Committee (STCC). The State Trauma Care Committee was created in 1995 to reduce the incidence of trauma injuries in Montana and to promote and advance excellence in the care of the injured patient. Members of the committee are appointed by the Governor. The STCC created this state level program for trauma certification to encourage participation by Montana hospitals, especially smaller, rural hospitals that previously may not have had financial resources to apply for certification through the American College of Surgeons.

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