

# LHC designation as trauma hospital renewed

By Enterprise Staff

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

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, according to an LHC news release.

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 of trauma injuries 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. That's a 13 percent increase since 2007, the LHC release said.

The Community Trauma Hospital designation does not change referral patterns for the hospital. Patients who need more specialized care will still be transferred to larger facilities.

Billings Clinic and St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings

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 State Trauma Care Committee was created in 1995 to reduce the incidence of trauma injuries in Montana.