

Proposal to Increase EMS Rates in Dillingham

Background:

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are critical to public health and safety. Dillingham's current EMS rates are significantly below the Alaska regional average, which limits the ability to maintain high-quality emergency care.

Current Dillingham Rates:	Alaska Regional Averages:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BLS-non-emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$412Per Mile Rate: \$13BLS-Emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$464Per Mile Rate: \$13ALS-non-emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$569Per Mile Rate: \$13ALS-Emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$824Per Mile Rate: \$13Other - SPECIAL<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$974Per Mile Rate: \$13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BLS-non-emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$723.20Per Mile Rate: \$15.80BLS-Emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$811.40Per Mile Rate: \$15.80ALS-non-emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$963.80Per Mile Rate: \$15.80ALS-Emergent<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$1091.30Per Mile Rate: \$15.80Other - SPECIAL<ul style="list-style-type: none">Base Rate: \$1307.70Per Mile Rate: \$15.80

Disparity Analysis:

- Base Rate Gap:** Dillingham is about **\$330 below** the state average.
- Per Mile Rate Gap:** Dillingham is **\$2.80 below** the state average.

Community Impact of Low EMS Rates:

- Reduced Service Quality
- Staffing Challenges
- Limited Training & Certification
- Increased Risk in Remote Areas
- Strain on Local Budgets

Cost-Benefit Analysis:

Assuming:

- **300 EMS calls per year**
- **Average of 15 miles per call**

Current Annual Revenue:

- \$648.50 (average base) + \$195 (average mileage) = \$843.50 per call
- **Total: \$ 253,050/year**

Recommendation:

Increase Dillingham's EMS rates to:

- **BLS-Non-Emergent**
 - Base Rate: \$923
 - Per Mile Rate: \$20.17
- **BLS-Emergent**
 - Base Rate: \$ 1,035.24
 - Per Mile Rate: \$20.17
- **ALS-Non-Emergent**
 - Base Rate: \$ 1,230.08
 - Per Mile Rate: \$20.17
- **ALS-Emergent**
 - Base Rate: \$1,392.81
 - Per Mile Rate: \$20.17
- **Other - SPECIAL**
 - Base Rate: \$1,668.99
 - Per Mile Rate: \$20.17

Proposed Annual Revenue:

- \$ 1,250.02 (average base) + \$302.55 (average mileage) = \$1,552.57 per call
- **Total: \$ 465,771/year***

Revenue Increase:

- **\$ 212,721/year**
- **54% increase in revenue***

This additional funding can be reinvested into:

- New fire station

- Updates to Lake Road Station
- Upgrading equipment and vehicles
- Enhancing staff training and retention
- Improving response times and service coverage

This adjustment aligns with regional standards and ensures sustainable, high-quality EMS services for the community. Current averages plus a 5% COLA increase over 5 years equals new rates. All rates to be reviewed on a 5 year term to reflect most current regional standards.

Dillingham's EMS rates are well below Alaska's regional averages, limiting funding for essential emergency services. Updating rates to align with regional benchmarks would increase annual revenue from about \$253,050 to \$465,771, a 54% gain, strengthening staffing, training, equipment, and facility improvements. A five-year review cycle is recommended to keep rates current.

***Based on average of 300 calls per year with 100% payout**