

Emergency Medical Services in Spink County

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Spink County

- Located in Northeast South Dakota
- Population of 6,108
- 5 Colonies
 - Camrose, Clark, Glendale, Hillside, and Spink
- Area of 1,510 Square Miles
- Two transport ambulance services
 - Spink County Ambulance based in Refield
 - Conde Ambulance
- 1 Responding Agency
 - WildCat Rescue based in Northville

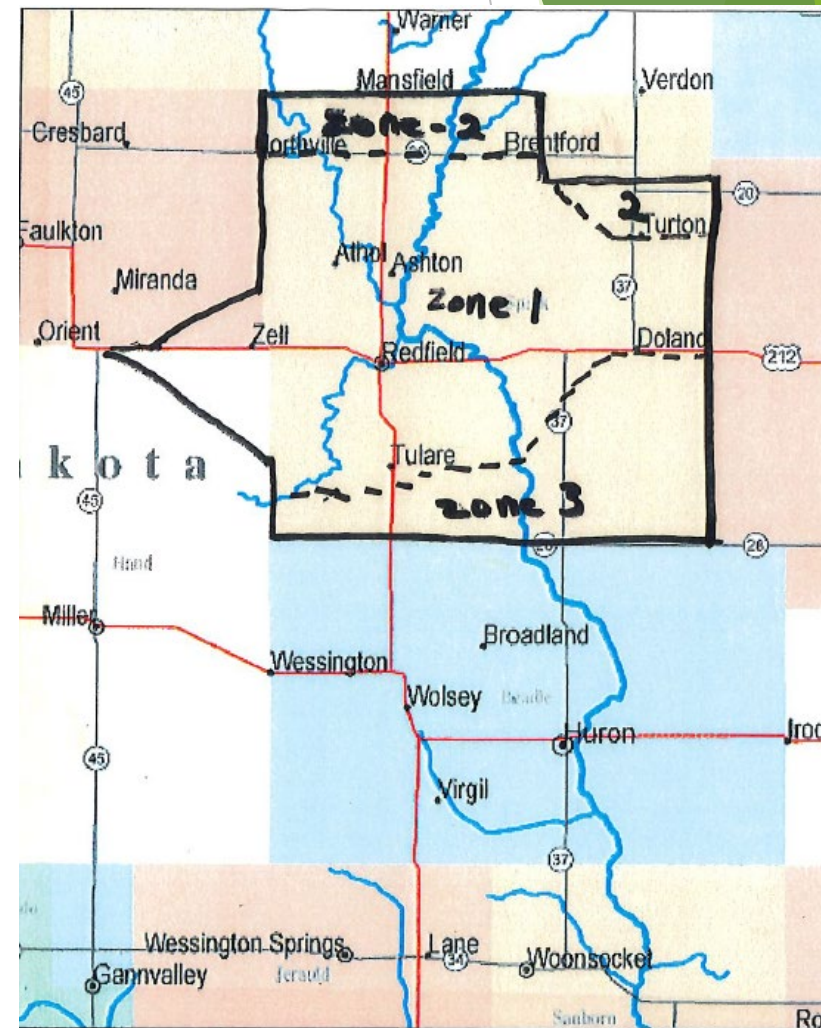


Spink County Ambulance Structure

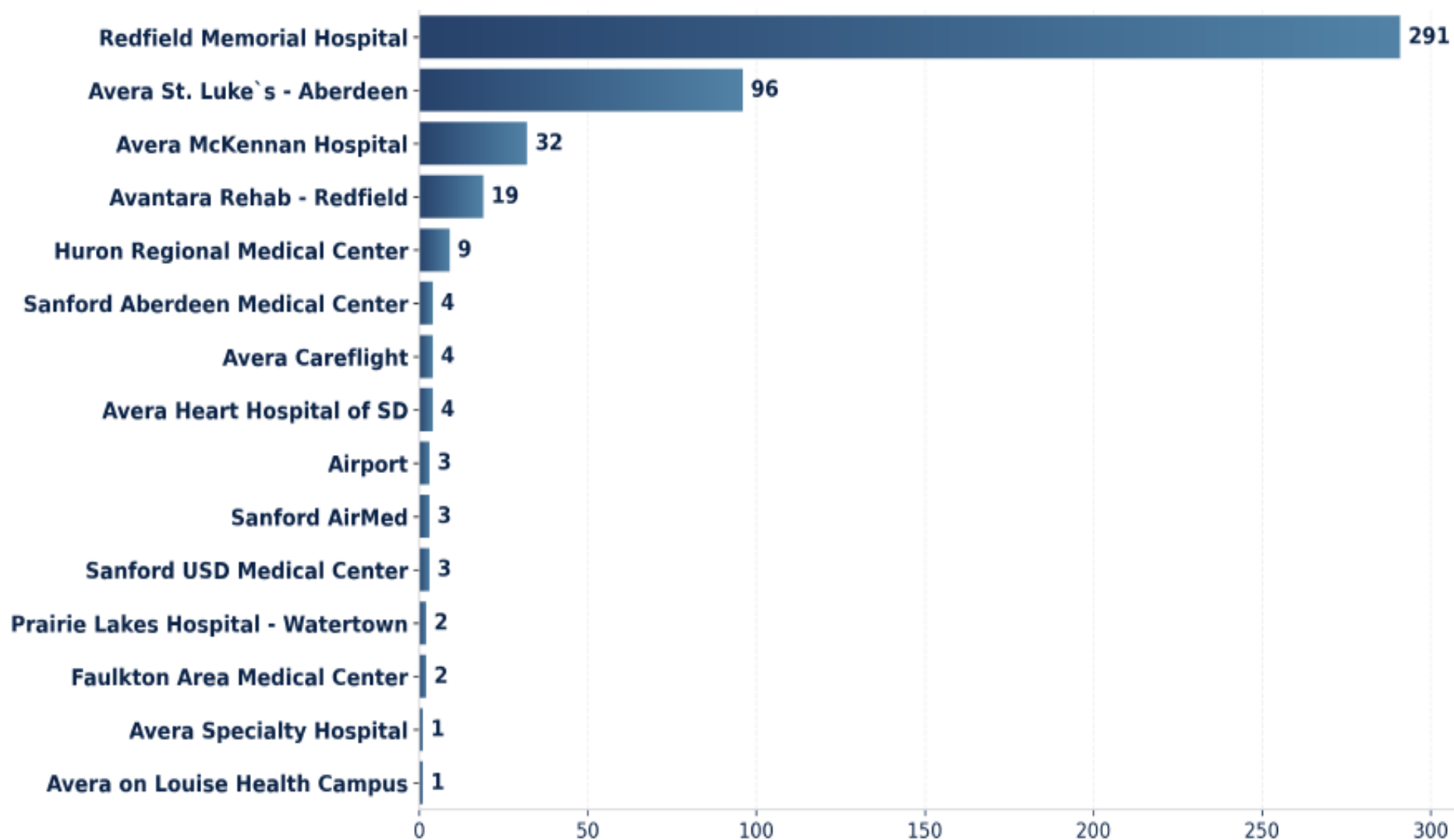
- City Owned
 - City owns the hospital
 - City owns the property of the ambulance service
 - Hospital Based
 - Hospital is in charge of billing for patients, paying of staff, Paying the bills
 - County Managed
 - County Provides a stipend to the ambulance service
- All 3 entities share a fiscal responsibility to purchase a new ambulance
- Paid-Volunteer 24/7, 365 Service
 - On-Call Rate-\$6.00/hr.
 - EMT Basic-\$35.00/hr.
 - Advanced EMT, Registered Nurse, Paramedic- \$40.00/hr.
 - Employees do not receive benefits, classified as PRN employees

Spink County Ambulance Coverage Area

- 911 call coverage area of approximately 1,800 square miles
- Communities served include: Ashton, Brentford, Conde, Doland, Frankfort, Mansfield, Mellette, Northville, Redfield, Tulare, Turton
- Includes portions of Beadle, Brown, Faulk, and Hand Counties
 - Hitchcock (Beadle County)
 - Mansfield (Brown)
 - Rockham and Zell (Faulk)
- 90% of time we are ALS Staffed
 - (meaning an IV can be started by provider)
- 565 calls in 2025
- Currently at 350 in 2026
- Average Response Time to Enroute is 5.2 minutes



Destination Facilities - Last 12 Months



Spink County Ambulance Staff

- 3 Ambulances
- 32 Staff
 - 7 Paramedics
 - 4 Registered Nurses
 - 3 EMT I-85
 - 18 EMT
- 14 members stay at our facilities for their shift
 - 1 Ashton
 - 1 Cottonwood Lake
 - 1 Tulare
 - 2 Northville
 - 1 Aberdeen
 - 2 Sioux Falls
 - 1 Mitchell
 - 1 Webster
 - 1 Miranda
 - 1 Turton





Training Room



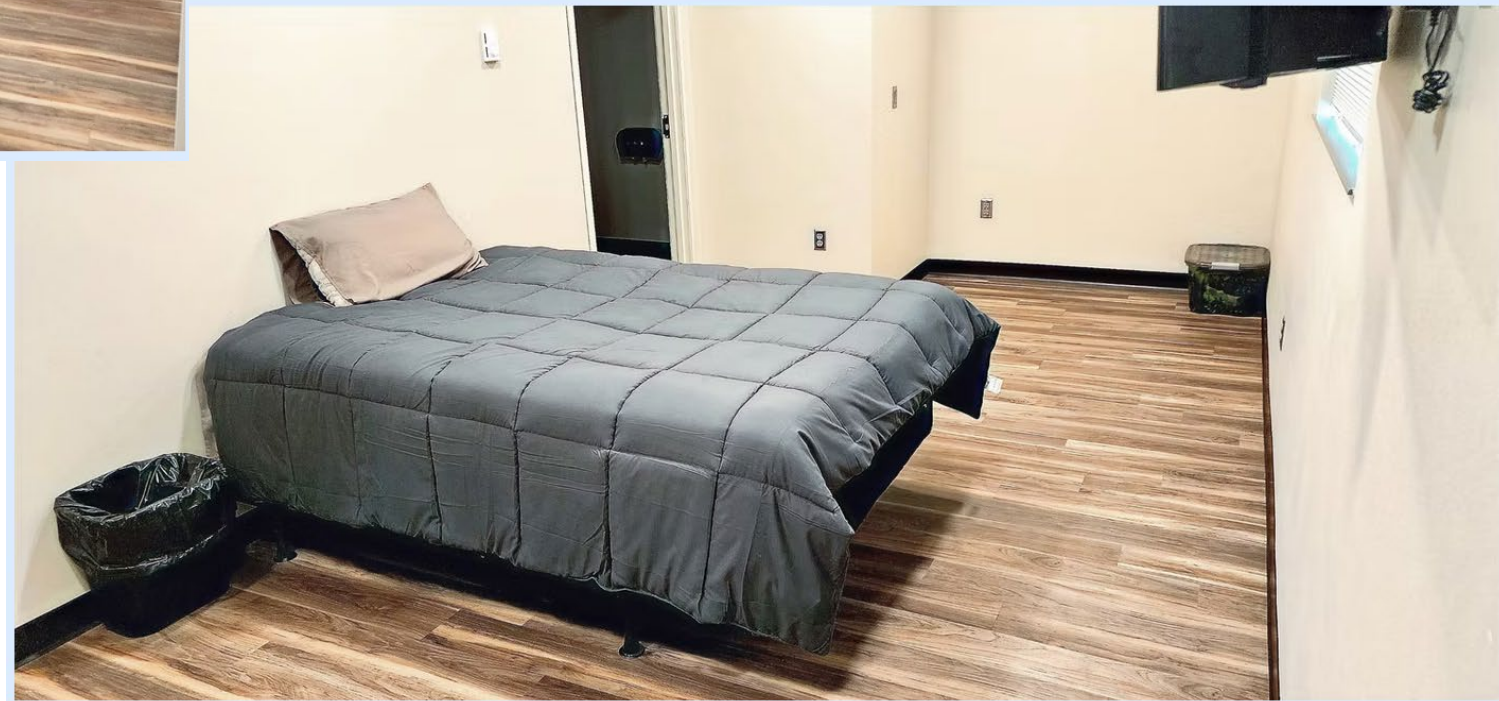
Staff Kitchen





Living Quarters

3 Bedrooms each with their own
bathroom



Spink County EMS Center

- Initial plans started in 2019, then was delayed due to COVID and rising costs
- Over \$300,000 was fundraised by EMS Staff in additional to taking call
- Completed in April of 2024
- Home to community events such as:
 - Battle of the Badges Blood Drive
 - Flu Shot Clinic
 - Dementia Training
 - CPR Classes
 - EMT Classes
 - Heart and Stroke Screenings
 - LEPC Meetings
 - Hospital and Ambulance Combined Continuing Education
 - Life Jacket Give Away during EMS week sponsored by Ambulance
 - Graduation Party Sites

EMT Classes

- 29 EMTs in 4 years
 - 6 for Wildcat Rescue
 - 4 Brentwood Colony
 - 2 in Alaska
 - 3 Warner Responding Agency
 - 1 Turton
 - 11 Spink County Ambulance
 - 1 Faulkton
 - 1 Clark County
- 2 Paramedics Produced
 - With another enrolling in the Spring



Clinical Site

- Spink County Ambulance also serves as a clinical ride along site for:
 - School of EMS
 - Lake Area Technical College
 - Beadle County EMS
 - Have had interest from Sanford EMS classes

How do you make 15 minutes
to life possible with such a
wide response area?

Wildcat Rescue Responders

- Wildcat Rescue is considered a secondary site of the Spink County Ambulance
 - A non-transport unit, first responding unit
 - Set up as a secondary site for the Spink County Ambulance
 - In the future they would have the ability to respond on their own as a service
 - in the case of mass casualty incident they would be able to transport patients
- Serves the communities of
 - Mellette
 - Northville
 - Brentford
 - Mansfield
- Provide standby for Northwestern School football games
- Also respond in Conde's ambulance district



Wildcat Rescue Development

- Austin and Eric were the EMT class instructors in Redfield and recognized that more people from the northern part of the county were taking the EMT class
 - With Austin working for Fire and Rescue he had some experience working with responding agencies. Austin's hometowns are Mellette and Northville.
 - Austin originally responded as part of his fire departments or was contacted via his personal phone.
- With all these new individuals taking the class, this is something that we thought we could be successful in
- Idea was taken to the Medical Director at the time, Dr. Matthew Owens and was met with full support
 - Dr. Owens was a major advocate for rural medicine and created the Dakota Responder Program to train civilians in Stop the Bleed, Narcan Administration, AED Placement, and Epi Pen Administration
 - In the past year 215 people have taken this training

Wildcat Rescue Make Up

- 11 Members who are volunteers:
 - 1 Paramedics
 - Spink County Ambulance member
 - 1 Nurse Practitioner
 - 1 Registered Nurse who is a Paramedic
 - 1 Registered Nurse
 - 7 EMT Basics
 - 3 members of Spink County Ambulance
- Wildcat Rescue has their own designation as a 501C-3 (Non-profit status)
- Wildcat Rescue holds regular meetings in Mellette for continuing education
 - Members also have opportunity to partake in Spink County Ambulance monthly meetings for continuing education
- Leadership committee was voted on by members of the crew, by-laws state elections are held every two years.
 - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
- In the process of establishing a governing board made up of stake holders in Spink County

How Wildcat Rescue operates

- Members of Wildcat Rescue operate under the license of the Medical Director of Spink County Ambulance
- Members follow the same policy and procedures that members of the Spink County Ambulance follows
- They respond and provide primary care until Spink County Ambulance arrives to transport the patient
- Members can be utilized by Spink County Ambulance to assist with care and transport of patients.
- Each member of WildCat Rescue has their own ImageTrend account to chart patient care

How they are activated

- When there is a call in the northern part of the county Wildcat Rescue is activated in conjunction with Spink County Ambulance
- Members are on the Northville Fire Department eDispatches software and receive an alert on their phone
- Members drive to the Northville Fire Station where vehicle is housed and are able to respond to the scene to provide initial care
- Member that live further away can access medical supply caches in nearby towns and utilize fire department apparatuses if they are members of that fire department. (Brentford, Mellette, etc.)
- Buy in from numerous agencies and departments
 - Spink County Sheriff Office
 - Spink County Ambulance
 - Northville Fire Department

Equipment

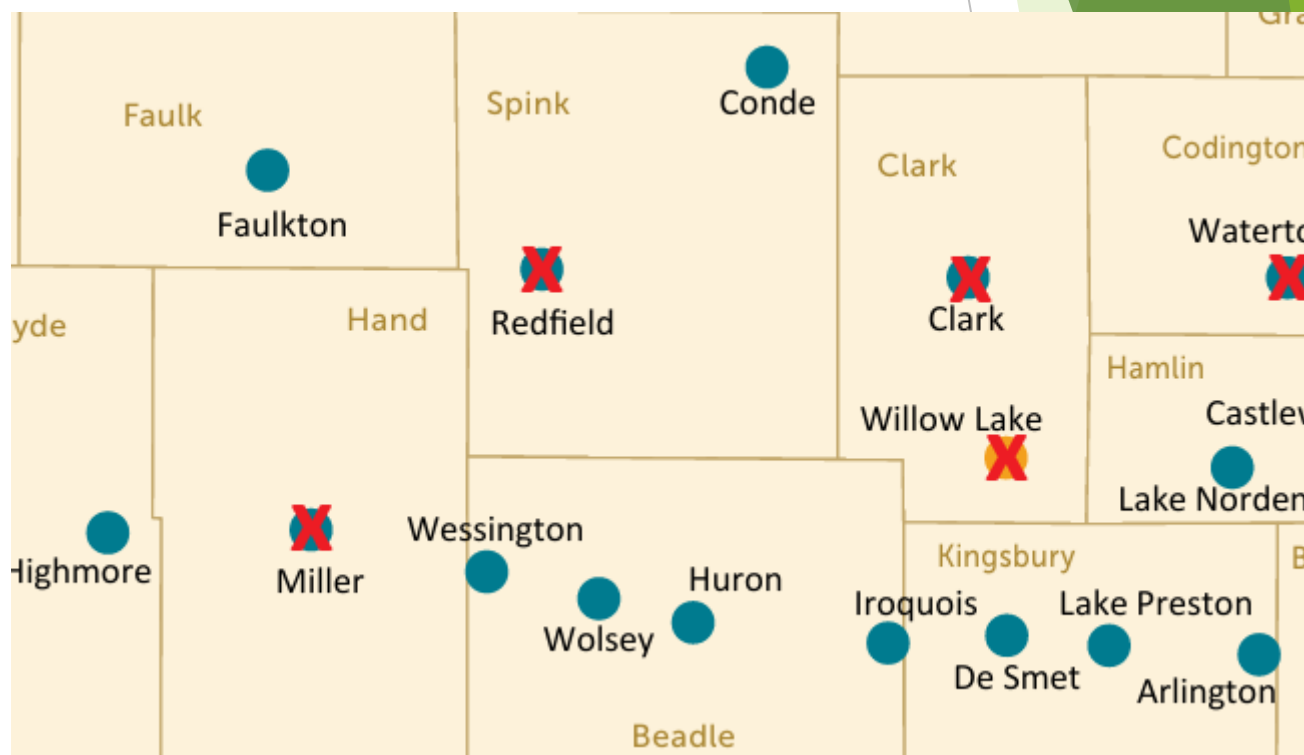
- When Spink County Ambulance was scheduled to receive a new ambulance Instead of trading it in for minimum amount, ambulance was surplus to Wildcat Rescue
- Wildcat Rescue received radios in the ambulance by Emergency Manager to be able to communicate with dispatch and responding crew from Redfield
- Wildcat Rescue had a backboard and extrication equipment that was located in a fire vehicle
- Members have their own jump bag with supplies in their personal vehicles that were provided by South Dakota EMS Childrens
- Spink County Ambulance was able to provide some supplies for patient care and ability to restock if supplies were used while assisting
- Spink County Ambulance received 3 new LifePaks in 2023 as part of the LifePak initiative that was offered by the State of South Dakota
 - Two of the Lifepaks were able to be repurposed
 - One to Wildcat Rescue
 - One to Volunteer responder in Doland

Collaboration with Surrounding Counties

- Currently Spink County Ambulance has mutual aid agreements with:
 - Clark County
 - Conde Ambulance
 - Hand County
 - Faulk County
 - Wolsey Ambulance
 - Huron Ambulance
- Aberdeen Fire and Rescue and Aberdeen Ambulance are both included in our trauma transportation plan in case of mass casualty incident.

Regionalization Preparation

- Leadership from the following counties have been meeting in preparation for the upcoming regionalization in the state
 - These counties and services were picked based on having existing mutual aid agreements together
- First meeting was held March 27, 2026 then addition meetings in May, June, and July
 - Beadle County EMS
 - Huron
 - Wolsey
 - Iroquois
 - Wessington
 - Lake Norden
 - Faulk County
 - Hand County
 - Wildcat Rescue
 - Conde Ambulance



Coalition Collaboration

- Discussion on how we can all help each other whether this be by:
 - Equipment purchasing as group
 - Ensuring we all run on the same equipment
 - Training equipment such as manikins to share between all parties.
 - Continuing Education
 - Keeping staff from all services trained in hands on skills as well as getting continuing education hours
 - Sharing monthly meetings to each crew
 - EMT Class Sharing
 - Sharing of Instructors; soon will have to be a certified instructor to teach classes
 - Sharing services to provide Ride time
 - Opportunity to support each other with providing staff with advanced education and certifications
 - Policy and Staff Sharing
 - Medical Directors to ensure we are all running on same protocols and latest medication dosages
 - Consistent policies for patient care
 - Technology
 - Latest in charting systems to ensure patient reports are done on time
 - ImageTrend Elite Field
 - (ability to send vitals from LifePack to report writing)
 - Ability to do reports on the way home from calls without wi-fi capabilities
 - Able to integrate with hospital electronic records to show outcomes and provide the best care.