



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
**Health Department**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**February 14, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kay Robertson, Public Health Nurse, Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, 457-8945, [krobertson@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:krobertson@co.lewis-clark.mt.us)

**Vaccine Field Clinic for Firefighters**

Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is holding a vaccine field clinic for volunteer firefighters and related emergency personnel at the **West Valley Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:00 PM.** Firefighters and emergency personnel will be vaccinated against tetanus and hepatitis B.

While working on the scene of fires or injury, emergency responders risk exposure to hepatitis B and tetanus. The hepatitis B virus spreads from person to person in blood and saliva. Bacteria that grow in dust and manure can cause tetanus. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds. With vaccinations, these diseases are easily preventable. Keeping hepatitis B and tetanus inoculations current is an important component of good safety practices.

“Just like a helmet or turnout gear, vaccinations are protective gear for firefighters and emergency responders. The Rural Fire Council and the health department are partnering to make sure they get the protection they need,” explained Valentine Sworts, Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department Emergency Preparedness Specialist.

The health department is working to prevent illness among first responders so that in the event of an emergency or disaster they will be better able to protect the community. For more information, contact Kay Roberston 457-8945.

*The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.*

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