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St. Luke's cuts 10 information technology positions

Restructuring of the IT department had already been under way.

The information technology department at St. Luke's Health System is shedding 10 of its 28 positions, but hospital officials hope they can keep everyone employed at St. Luke's.

Hospital spokesman Ken Dey said the plan cut 28 positions and then created 18 new ones. Current employees are applying for those new positions and are being given preference for those jobs. All employees will continued to be paid for at least two weeks.

The hospital is hoping to find other open positions for the 10 employees who are not rehired in the restructured department. Restructuring has been under way for about a year, before the economy began to tank in earnest.

"The economy just added a little more negative 'umph' to it," Dey said. All of the lost jobs are at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. St. Luke's is one of the largest employers in the Treasure Valley. It has hospitals in Boise and Meridian and employs nearly 5,500 workers in the Valley.

So far, St. Luke's has not laid off any workers as Treasure Valley hospitals slog through the foundering economy.

All the hospitals in the Valley are suffering from mounting bad debt because patients aren't paying their bills and because more patients are qualifying for charity care. Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise and Mercy Medical Center in Nampa have laid off small numbers of employees.