

# EMS Profile: UMC Lubbock EMS



UMC Lubbock EMS

**Number of personnel:** UMC Lubbock EMS is a paid MICU service with a staff of 92 EMS professionals within the UMC Health System. Of these, 76 are paramedics, 13 staff the communications center as emergency medical dispatchers and three keep things running in the office. The dispatchers are certified EMTs, EMT-Is and paramedics. UMC Lubbock EMS is lead by an Administrative council that consists of UMC Health System Vice-President John Geist; Shift Chief Alan Harrison; Shift Chief Bruce Mowrey; Shift Chief Tim Berry; and Communications Chief Renee Sandefur. Each shift also has an assistant shift chief: Scott Sandefur, A-shift; Bryan Stewart, B-shift; and Ruben Cuevas, C-shift. UMC Lubbock EMS provides training for new employees, continuing education for current staff, monthly case reviews and quality improvement. On the training staff is Debra Morris, training coordinator; Marcus Bauler, communications training officer; and Lynn Wallis, Andrew Ochoa, Lindell Forbes, Brian Lankford and Dianne Draper, field training officers. On the administrative staff are Melissa Peebles, department secretary; Annette Hood, office coordinator; and Darla Harrison, billing coordinator. Dr. E. Joe Sasin, MD, is medical director.

**How many years of service and Number of Units:** UMC Lubbock EMS began service in November 1975 with one ambulance and five crew members, adding two ambulances and 13 more crew members by mid-December 1975. The communications center was

put into operation with one dispatcher on duty a shift. Today, there are six stations with seven Type I MICU ambulances staffed by two paramedics providing service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To help provide for a more rapid response, UMC Lubbock EMS has up to five paramedic-staffed first responder units posted in the city. The first responders drive Ford F-250 pickups, each equipped with advanced life support equipment.

**Number of Calls:** UMC Lubbock EMS serves a population of over 220,000 in the city of Lubbock and portions of unincorporated Lubbock County. In 2006, UMC Lubbock EMS responded to 25,654 calls with an average response time of less than 5 minutes.

**Current activities:** The ambassadors of UMC Lubbock EMS are the Lubbock EMS Honor Guard. The honor guard has made numerous appearances at Texas EMS Conference, presenting the colors at the opening and making moving presentations during the Hall of Honor presentation at the annual awards banquet. Members have also traveled throughout the state paying tribute to those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Members of UMC Lubbock EMS are active members of Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area B, serving on the board of directors and as officers. UMC Lubbock EMS also has representation on two GETAC committees. UMC Lubbock EMS is also an active member of South Plains EMS, with members participating at all levels of the organization. Members are involved in emergency management as part of the South Plains Incident Management Team, a regional Type III incident management team. Public education is provided through various health and safety fairs, school show-and-tells, and by helping to stage mock accidents at local high schools with their Shattered Dreams programs. ●



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