

EMS Profile: Childress Regional Medical Center EMS



Childress EMS, standing, from left: Vince LaCario, Sherry Arnold, Kellie LaCario, Pamela Mayhugh, Blain Burton, Jake Chapman, Kenny Smith, and Leslie Birkie; kneeling from left: Zack Coleman, Daniel Tyler, Steven Tyler, Roger Elliott and Gerardo Garcia

Number of Personnel: Childress Regional Medical Center (CRMC) EMS has a staff of 18 employees led by EMS Director Gerardo Garcia, NREMT-P. There are currently four full-time employees and 14 part-time employees. The full-time staff includes Roger Elliott, NREMT-P; Gerardo Garcia, NREMT-P; Pamela Mayhugh, EMT-B; and Steven Tyler, NREMT-B. The part-time employees include: Sherry Arnold, EMT-P; Leslie Birkie, LP; Jake Chapman, NREMT-P; Tim Hightower, NREMT-P; Leann Preston, EMT; James Hewett, NREMT-P; Blain Burton, NREMT-I; Zack Coleman, NREMT-I; Kenny Smith, NREMT-B; Daniel Tyler, NREMT-B; David

Cruz, NREMT-B; Kellie LaCario, EMT-B; Vince LaCario, EMT-B; and Rodney Mestas, EMT-B.

Years of service, number of units and number of calls: CRMC EMS is a hospital-based EMS service that began in 1980 with two ambulances when medical staff members petitioned the Childress Regional Medical Center's board of directors to implement a paramedic service. The first paramedic, W. J. Copeland, was on call 24 hours a day. He began teaching EMT classes to hospital personnel, LVNs, respiratory therapists and physical therapists, and soon more people became certified to work on the ambulance.

CRMC EMS now has a fleet of three Type III ambulances, two of which are staffed 24 hours a day with at least one paramedic on each unit. The third ambulance is placed in service when more than one inter-facility transfer is needed. All three ambulances are BLS with MICU capabilities. Each unit is stocked with LifePack 12 cardiac monitors and is capable of waveform capnography. Portable ventilators are also carried for intubated patients. CRMC EMS operates under Panhandle Emergency Medical Services System (PEMSS) and under the medical control of Carl Paetzold, MD.

In 2006, CRMC EMS responded to 1,034 calls, 201 of which were inter-facility transfers. The service area for Childress EMS is 720 square miles and includes 6,000 people in the city of Childress. CRMC EMS provides 9-1-1 services for the citizens of Childress and Childress County, as well as the thousands of travelers who drive on the two US highways that intersect in Childress. The service also provides paramedic mutual aid for two surrounding communities that do not always have a hospital or a paramedic on duty.

Current activities: CRMC EMS has participated in the past two annual city-wide disaster drills. By offering free monthly CPR courses, CRMC EMS trained 159 people as CPR providers in 2007 and expects to exceed that number this year. The service is building a new ambulance station and will soon be purchasing a new ambulance. An emergency vehicle operations course is planned for early 2008. CRMC EMS was awarded the PEMSS Public/Private provider of the year award in 2002 and again in 2004.



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