

EMS Profile by  
Michael P. Naughton, LP

## EMS Profile: Shavano Park Fire/EMS

**About us:** The city of Shavano Park is a suburb of San Antonio with a population of about 3225 residents. The Fire Department began as a volunteer service in 1951 and has now progressed to a fully paid, city department. After being serviced by several different private ambulance companies over the years, Shavano Park Fire purchased a used Frazer ambulance and started providing BLS care in 2002. Our EMS system began with a single goal: to improve service for our residents.

**Number of personnel:** Shavano Park Fire/EMS is staffed by 16 full-time firefighters and four reserve firefighters. We currently have two licensed paramedics, six certified paramedics and eight basic EMTs. The fire department is headed up by Chief Michael Naughton, LP. Medical Director Ralph N. Terpolilli, MD, has been with our system from day one and provides medical control, system oversight and continuing education.

**Number of calls and unit capabilities:** Shavano Park Fire/EMS utilizes two Frazer Type I ambulances and one ALS engine. We ran 264 EMS calls in 2009, which represents a 40 percent increase in responses over the past five years. Both EMS units are BLS/MICU capable and are equipped with Zoll 12-lead monitors, End Tidal CO<sub>2</sub>, SAO<sub>2</sub>, AED, EZ-IO, advanced airways, CPAP and 25 different medications, including pain management medication. Patients are transported on Stryker PowerPro XT stretchers. Our first out unit is staffed with a paramedic and a basic EMT twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Both units are set up to allow for operation by basic EMTs when

	Texas Department of State Health Services	Periodical
	Office of EMS Trauma/Systems MC 1876	Rate Paid
	PO Box 149347	At Austin, Texas
	Austin, Texas 78714-9347	



Shavano Park Fire/EMS ambulance fleet. Photo by Vernon Theis and Kenneth Briggs.

needed. All units are equipped with computers and utilize Zoll Tablet PCR for documentation.

**Current Activities:** Shavano Park Fire/EMS provides child safety seats and installation assistance to the citizens of Bexar County. We feel that providing this vital service is a proactive measure in preventing infant and child injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. Fighter/EMT Samuel Richards, the lead technician, says, "I will help anyone that wants to help a child." We assist in installing child safety seats almost every day and have three certified technicians on staff. These individuals have all

volunteered for the training and the additional work. This program started in 2002 and has continued to grow in popularity.

Besides providing fire and EMS service to the community, we provide community education for the local assisted living center, Alzheimer's facility, public schools and other community organizations. We provide injury prevention education, first aid, blood pressure checks and other community programs. Shavano Park participates in the Southwest Texas Regional RAC rescue teams, data collection project and the Regional Mutual Aid project.