

EMS Profile: Medina Valley EMS



Medina Valley EMS units

Number of personnel: Medina Valley EMS is a paid BLS with MICU-capable service with a staff of five full-time and four-part time paramedics; three part-time EMT-Intermediates; and five full time EMT-Basics. Administration staff includes Director Mike Farris; Deputy Director Don Johnson; HR Director Christy Merendon; Senior FTO Bob Trouten; Maintenance Officer Mike Bendele; Transfer Coordinator Billie Tolbert; Education Directors Angelo Pagonis and Kathy Winters; and Medical Director Lloyd VanWinkle, MD. Medina Valley EMS' service area consists of eastern Medina County.

Years of service and number of units: Medina Valley EMS began service in October 1975 with volunteer staff and a used suburban converted to a BLS unit. In 2002, Medina Valley EMS became fully paid and operates one full-time MICU unit and a second and third unit for second out calls and special events. The area consists of the recreational area of Southern Medina Lake, rural ranch and farm land that is rapidly becoming urbanized, as well the cities of Castroville and LaCoste. Additional crews are dispatched to the Medina Lake area

during peak times due to the extended distance from the station located in Castroville.

Number of calls: The Medina Valley EMS service area encompasses over 400 square miles with a population of approximately 25,000 residents. Run volume has increased from 194 in 1975 to 1207 in 2006. Medina Valley EMS plans to place an additional unit in service in 2008 to transport non-emergent patients to various appointments. It is our belief that non-emergent patients deserve the same professional care that emergent patients have always received from our service.

Current activities: Medina Valley EMS is very active in STRAC, which covers Trauma Service Area P. Members of MVEMS currently chair the Pre-Hospital Committee; serve on the Executive Committee, P.I. Committee and Education Committee, as well as the STRAC Strike Team. Medina Valley's EMS director also sits on the EMS Committee for GETAC. Medina Valley EMS holds "in house" continuing education generated out of the QA/QI program. The goal is to ensure educational offerings to MVEMS personnel are relevant to services provided. Other services in the area are always welcome to attend. Medina Valley EMS administrative staff often acts as mentors to small rural and frontier services and to new EMS directors. Community CPR and first aid classes are offered on a regular basis. In 2004, Medina Valley EMS placed a wheelchair van in service to assist disabled citizens in their travels to and from various appointments or special events.



Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

Periodical
Rate Paid
At Austin, Texas