

EMS Profile by Glendda Merritt-Alcorn, Administrator

EMS Profile: Northern Hudspeth County EMS

About us: Northern Hudspeth County EMS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been in business since 2008. Our service has a board of directors that seats seven members from all parts of our coverage area. Prior to the creation of our service, we were under the direction of the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff Arvin West), which carried both Dell City and Sierra Blanca EMS services on the provider license for eight years. This past year Hudspeth County ESD #2 was created, for both fire and EMS. Robert Phelan III, MD, is our medical director.

Number of personnel: Since the changeover we have grown so much. At this time we have 15 Texas-certified personnel, from ECA to paramedic, one EMS coordinator, two EMS instructors, four non-certificate holders (drivers/volunteers) and one full-time administrator. It has taken a lot of work and dedication, and we especially appreciate the variance DSHS granted for one of our ambulances, allowing us to function and remain in service during the transition. Our coverage area is large, and we have people stationed in each community who could be up to 65 miles away from each other. But our service remains 24/7 capable and responds to every 9-1-1 call. We are very proud of our response times, especially considering personnel typically respond from their homes or jobs.

Number of units: Our area of coverage area is roughly 4,000 square miles, and we have two substations: Dell City substation and Sierra Blanca substation. Each substation has one full-time in-service ready unit, for a total of just two ambulances. How do we manage a large service area with limited resources? It is through pure love and dedication to our community, and the drive to lend helping hands in times of need.

Number of calls: Our call volume

	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	



has dramatically increased in the past year as a result of adding Sierra Blanca and the surrounding communities to our coverage area. We are projected to be at 350 calls this year. The last five months of last year we averaged 150. Two major highways come through our county, I-10 and Highway 62/180, which account for increased trauma calls. Transports may be up to 90 miles from either Dell City or Sierra Blanca. Our closest receiving hospital, Culberson Hospital, is 32 miles away, but it is in the opposite direction from the closest Level 1 and 2 trauma centers in El Paso. Transports can be four to five hours from start to finish on calls. Omni Flight (serving El Paso, Alamogordo, Las Cruces and Lubbock) is the air transport service for our area, and they are always there to help with training and transfers.

Current activities: The growth of Northern Hudspeth County EMS has allowed us to participate in many activities throughout the year. We are active with the Hudspeth County Fair, Border RAC (TSA-I), high school football games for Dell City ISD and Sierra Blanca ISD, health and prevention booths, standbys for DSHS vaccine clinics, community blood pressure and glucose screenings, the American Red Cross (El Paso chapter) and disaster planning and Hudspeth County emergency management partnerships. We also offer individual CERT teams, CSI demonstrations with the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office, fire standbys for the local fire departments and mutual aid for Culberson EMS and Fort Hancock EMS. We actively promote training and exercises throughout our area to encourage more people to attend.