

EMS Profile by Susie Jechow, LP

EMS Profile: Val Verde Regional Medical Center EMS

About us: Val Verde Regional Medical Center EMS is a hospital-based 9-1-1 and MICU hospital-to-hospital emergency transfer service located in Del Rio. The service area is Val Verde County, which covers 3,200 square miles, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Number of personnel: Nineteen paramedics, four intermediates, seven EMTs make up the staffing at VVRMC EMS. Three of these are currently enrolled in paramedic class.

Years of service: VVRMC EMS began its service in 1978 when a local funeral home service delivered their two van ambulances to the hospital ER. It has since developed into an almost all-paramedic service. Over the years, our exemplary staff have received the DSHS Public Provider Award (1989), EMS Educator Award (2005) and EMS Director Award (2007) among other local awards and recognitions.

Number of units: The fleet is made up of six MICU Type I or III ambulances. The newest members of the fleet have onboard generators,

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allowing for continued electrical function without running the engine.

Number of calls: The 9-1-1 service responded to 4,165 in 2011; 71 percent of them were emergency calls. Also in 2011, the service transported 303 patients to San Antonio area hospitals.

Current activities: The staff works 24-hour shifts, one shift on and three off. On days off, staff can sign up for transfer call, community outreach programs or EMS class instructing. Injury Prevention programs are numerous, as the staff are routinely involved in preschool and school activities, community health events and stand-bys at high school athletic events. Two of the staff are certified child passenger seat

technicians, and VVRMC EMS has adopted safe transport methods for children in ambulances. Two of our EMS dispatchers are also EMTs and all monitor telemetry at the medical center.

VVRMC EMS works closely with the EMS Academy in order to “grow our own” EMTs and paramedics. The second paramedic class course finished this past June has provided the southwest area of Texas a total of 26 paramedics. The Academy also provides continuing education through the AHA Training Center with all level courses, provides other “alphabet” courses, and offers QI-driven programs to provide service that includes waveform capnography, 12-lead ECG and EZ IO.

