



Miami County EMS



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Miami County EMS, located in the northeast region of Kansas, is the focus of this issue’s service spotlight. The county is located approximately 20 minutes south of the Greater Kansas City Metro area and Missouri borders it on the east. Major highways in the county include US-69 and US-169 running north and south along with K-68 running east and west. Hillsdale Lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake located in the north part of the county. Miami County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state.

Miami County Emergency Medical Services was founded in 1989 and was comprised of six full-time employees with an annual call volume of 781. Today they have an annual call volume of almost 2,600. The service has a response district of approximately 590 square miles. In the county, 13 square miles are water, and they also cover 51 miles of shoreline. The county is broken into two response districts. Miami County EMS also uses a modified status management system

to ensure patients receive care as soon as possible.

Miami County EMS is a Type 1 service. They serve approximately 32,000 residents of Miami County. They cover the cities of Paola, Louisburg, Osawatomie, and surrounding rural areas. They also have mutual aid agreements with surrounding counties and are always willing to extend their service to other areas when needed. Miami County EMS transitioned from a Type II ambulance service with the Kansas Board of EMS to a Type I ambulance service on April 25, 2006. According to EMS Chief Jason M. Jenkins, “the transition was the result of staff members expressing the desire to become licensed Type I, and to provide advanced life support (ALS) to a larger area of Miami County”. Jenkins says, “This change will not only benefit our staff members, but also better serve our citizens.” As a result of Miami County EMS becoming licensed Type I, there is now an ALS ambulance located in Paola and Louisburg. A third

ambulance is located in Paola as a BLS unit with ALS capabilities. Previously both ALS ambulances were located in Paola, however, in an attempt to increase the ALS care to the citizens of Miami County, an ALS ambulance was moved to Louisburg. This allows for citizens in the northern part of the county to have more rapid access to advanced life support.

Miami County EMS provides service through two stations. Station 1 is located between Paola and Osawatomie. Station 1 houses two ALS Ambulances, an ALS Battalion Chief’s vehicle, along with Miami County EMS’ mass casualty trailer and Special Operations trailer. Station 1 also houses the billing office along with the EMS Chief and vehicle. Station 2 is located in Louisburg at the Louisburg Fire Department. Station 2 houses one ALS ambulance and crew along with the Deputy Chief and vehicle.

Miami County EMS has three ALS Ambulances staffed 24 hours a day. They also have one back-up unit. The EMS Chief, Deputy Chief,

and Battalion Chief respond to calls in ALS equipped Ford Expeditions. A mass casualty trailer is also ready to respond to major incidents around the state and region. The MCI trailer is fully equipped with basic and advanced medical supplies. Miami County EMS also has a Special Operations trailer that provides support with a Gator and medical supplies.

Miami County EMS has 35 employees under the leadership of Chief Jason Jenkins and Deputy Chief David Ediger. They have 13 full-time paramedics, eight full-time EMTs, five part-time paramedics, and five part-time EMTs. Miami County EMS also has a full-time billing clerk. The crew is made up of a Battalion Chief, a Lieutenant, and five crew members.

Many of Miami County EMS' technicians hold certifications besides their provider certificates. These certifications include ACLS for the Experienced Provider, Neonatal Resuscitation Provider, ACLS-Instructor, PALS Instructor, BLS Instructor, PEPP, PEPP Instructor, Advanced Burn Life Support, and CCEMT-P.

They also have technicians who have Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Providers, ITLS, and Emergency Pediatric Care. All Miami County EMS technicians are required to have PHTLS, AMLS, Haz-Mat Awareness, ACLS, and PALS.

Protocols at Miami County EMS allow for technicians to provide the highest level of care possible to the citizens of Miami County. Advanced protocols include RSI, EZ/IO, CPAP, and many more. 12 Lead ECGs are transmitted via Lifenet receiving stations to receiving hospitals to ensure patient

access to cardiac catheterization service as soon as possible. Miami County EMS also utilizes induced hypothermia for post cardiac resuscitation care. Technicians have many medication options for treating patients. Two IV infusion systems carried on Miami County EMS units allow for multiple drips such as nitro drips, dopamine, and more. They are constantly looking for new medications to carry to ensure patient care is up-to-date. Currently, they are working on adding Cleviprex to their formulary to treat AMI, CVA, and hypertensive crisis.

Miami County EMS is a technician-focused service. Technicians enjoy aggressive protocols, both ALS and BLS. Technicians also enjoy a 48/96 hour work schedule. Employees are able to have more weekends off, and more time spent with family. Employee commute time to and from work has also been cut in half by switching to the 48/96 schedule. Instead of driving to work 10 times a month employees only have to commute five times a month. Each employee on duty is also allowed to workout

at the local YMCA while on duty. This has shown many benefits including improved employee health, morale, and fewer work related injuries. Training opportunities are offered year-round to staff to ensure technicians are up-to-date on new procedures and practices in emergency medicine.

Another unique aspect of Miami County is its geographical location. Though the community is rural and the service sees rural accidents, it's only approximately 20-30 minutes to Kansas City hospitals. So, paramedics have an opportunity to extend the amount of care they provide in a 30-minute transport time to specialty hospitals in Kansas City. Many services do not have the opportunity to have transports to specialty hospitals within such a short transport distance.

Employees at Miami County EMS are involved in many activities around the community and region. They annually participate in Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs. The employees also volunteer with Special Olympics. Technicians are also allowed to visit local schools while on duty and eat lunch





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with elementary students. Many technicians enjoy volunteering in classrooms as “watchdogs.” The management team also volunteers time at local soup kitchens. Miami County EMS is currently providing an EMT-Basic class to local first responders and fire departments. The class is being taught by Deputy Chief Dave Ediger. The course will allow for first responders to start providing care prior to EMS arrival and being more involved with assisting EMS crews with critical patients.

Miami County EMS is proud to be a service that evolves to fit the needs of its technicians, citizens, and emergency medicine. Every employee at Miami County EMS has the opportunity to change the way they provide care to patients and to make it a better place to work. Miami County EMS has



become the service it is today because of the leadership of its management team and the people on the street continually striving to improve patient care and make Miami County a better place to work. A staff member states “We are proud that we work together as a team. Each person working in this department has an assigned

responsibility, which enables the department to progress rapidly. We are proud of the relationships that we foster with other agencies and receiving facilities.”

When asked if there was anything else they’d like the Chronicle readers to know about their service they stated, “We feel confident that we are providing better patient care in Miami County each day. The progress our department has made over the last few years is in direct correlation to our staff and our leadership. We look forward to working with all our constituents in our future and yours. We would be happy to share information on our department, protocols, and/or procedures to other services and providers. Check out our website at www.miamicountyems.com or look for us on facebook!” 

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