



## Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center Ambulance Service

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Rice County EMS

Photos by Jon Friesen

The last issue of the KEMSA Chronicle took us to the northwest portion of the state to visit Thomas County EMS, which for most of us is a long drive. This issue, we took another long trip across the state to the southeastern part of Kansas and more specifically Neosho County to feature this issue's service spotlight, Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center (NMRMC) Ambulance Service.

For those of you who have never traveled to Neosho County, it is located on Highway 59, south of Highway 39. This is a beautiful part of Kansas and well worth a trip. Neosho County is bordered by Allen County to the north, Crawford County to the east (with a small portion neighboring Bourbon County), Wilson County to the west, and Labette County to the south.

The county was established June 3, 1861 and named for the Neosho River. Historically, it was formerly known as Dorn County.

The county encompasses 576 square miles with the community of Erie serving as the county seat. Chanute is the largest city with a population of just more than 9,000 and the home of Neosho Community College. The communities of Thayer, St. Paul, Galesburg, Earlton, and Stark are also located in Neosho County.

NMRMC Ambulance Service is a hospital-based agency located at Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center in Chanute. Neosho Memorial is a not-for-profit, county-owned critical access hospital. NMRMC Ambulance Service is licensed as a Type 2a Service with the Kansas Board of EMS and serves





a population base of approximately 16,512. They respond to 2,200 calls a year from three stations with a staff of 20, which includes 11 full-time paramedics, three full-time AEMTs, and six full-time EMTs. In addition, they currently have openings within the department for two paramedics and one EMT. According to the hospital website, they also offer a sign-on bonus. In addition, they support the full-time staff with eight part-time personnel with varying levels of certification that include a paramedic/RN and a critical care paramedic.

Pre-hospital care is delivered in a total of five ambulances with one supervisor vehicle. NMRMC Ambulance Service is very progressive having protocols for RSI, Adult I/O, 12/15 lead EKG, Ventilator/BiPap/CPAP, and Needle Thoracotomy. In addition, staff members are certified and required to have CPR, ACLS, PALS, CEVO, and CPI. Team

members also hold certifications from FEMA, are certified in PTHLS, AMLS, PEAES, and most recently attended the NAEMT Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership program that was sponsored by KEMSA. The service is very supportive of all training and most is provided for free to the employees.

In asking Service Director Trace Hallack what was unique about Neosho County EMS, he advised that for a Type 2a service they are able to keep a paramedic on





# Service Spotlight

each unit 95% of the time. He also pointed out that being one hour and 50 minutes from Tulsa, Wichita, Topeka, and Joplin that they often have a unit on the road transporting patients to tertiary facilities. They also have transported patients to other facilities as far away as Omaha, Neb.

Neosho EMS is also very supportive of the community that it serves by promoting stroke awareness in the community and also have several team members who teach CPR through the hospital outreach program. They also volunteer to do standbys for football games at schools, community rodeos, and local races as a community service in which they do not currently charge. In asking Trace what he is most proud of, he stated the people and the level of care that is given on a continual basis.

On a personal note, I have known Trace for more than 30 years as we worked together as paramedics at Reno County EMS and can attest to his passion for both his patients and his fellow employees. He also can do a heck of a job as a handy man such as roofing a house!

I would be remiss to not mention also that the CEO of Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, Dennis Franks, serves on the Kansas Board of EMS as the hospital administrator representative, and I have found him to be very engaged at the state level. He serves in his appointed position well on the BEMS and is the



current Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Neosho County EMS is very progressive in adapting to the newest advances in medicine and hold their education to the highest standard that is supported by an aggressive Medical Director. The community can be proud of the dedication and service provided by Neosho County EMS. 🌟



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and  
Happy New Year!*

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