

Service Spotlight



By Debbie Glenn, Ellinwood EMS

Photos by Jon Friesen, Wichita/Sedgwick County EMSS

This issue takes us to Burdett, Kansas, home of one of KEMSA's smallest service members, Burdett EMS. Burdett is located in Pawnee County on U.S. Hwy 156. They are centrally located between Great Bend, Hays, and Dodge City. The nearest hospitals are St. Joseph in Larned and Hodgeman Co. Health Center in Jetmore. Both of these hospitals are about 22 miles from Burdett. They also transfer to Great Bend, Hays, and Dodge City, which are approximately 45 to 50 miles away. Burdett EMS is licensed by the Board of EMS as a Type II service. They provide basic life support care to the citizens of western Pawnee County. Attendants respond to approximately 30-40 EMS calls each year. They cover a service area of 300 square miles and serve a population of approximately 700-750. They serve the communities of Burdett and Rozel as well as the rural area surrounding these cities.

Burdett EMS began providing service in 1976. They are based out of a single station in Burdett

and have just one ambulance. They are very proud of their ambulance, which is a 2002 International. It was previously used for a neonatal transport service in Joplin, Mo.

Staff at Burdett EMS includes 10 volunteer staff members with eight Emergency Medical Technicians and two EMT-Is. Eight of their members reside in Burdett and two reside in Rozel. Training is a high priority for the service but it does present a challenge. Burdett

EMS does not have a certified Training Officer or Instructor Coordinator on staff. The nearest educational institutions offering EMS training are over an hour away in Great Bend or Dodge City. This means that staff members must travel to obtain continuing education hours. The service has tried to offset some of that travel by hiring Instructor-Coordinator, Debbie Glenn, to provide bi-monthly training locally.



Burdett EMS personnel in front of their ambulance.



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Service members consider themselves very fortunate to operate under the medical direction of Dr. Snodgrass from Jetmore. Service Director Kathy Mostrom says “not only does Dr. Snodgrass volunteer his time, but he also never fails to take the time to teach us something. Dr. Snodgrass is a very good person, doctor, and Medical Director.”

Burdett EMS is not a fire-based service but most personnel are trained in both medical and firefighting operations. They have personnel trained at the Firefighter I level and Firefighter II.

The service is proud of their state of the art equipment, including



The back of the Burdett EMS jacket

their most recent purchase of a Stryker Electric Cot. They have two A.E.Ds on hand and also have a pulse oximeter.

Members of the service take their roles as healthcare providers seriously – believing that there is more to the

job than just responding to calls. Each year they try to do something with the schools. In the past they have provided education on EMS related topics and given out coloring books. One year they had a former patient, who had suffered a severe heart attack and was told it was a miracle he lived, come and share his story with the kids at school. This year, the students will



This side shot of the Burdett unit shows the holographic nature of the trim.

be receiving first aid kits. Also, once a month the EMS members do free blood pressure checks for the senior citizens.

When asked what the service is most proud of, Mostrom responded “We are proud of the dedication of our members and the professional care we provide despite our small call volume. We are also proud of the support of the communities in which we serve.”



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