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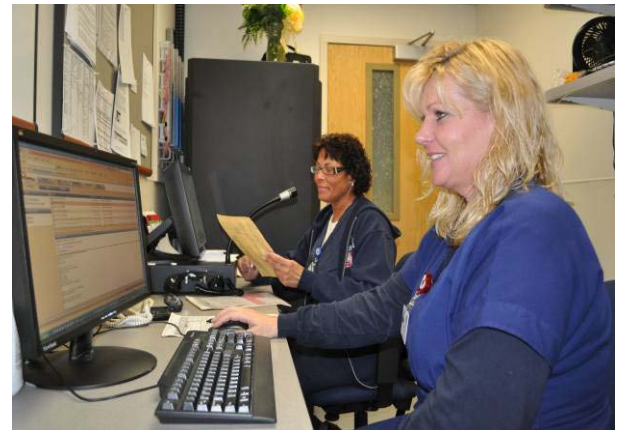
ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL BECOMES “BASE STATION” FOR EMS

(LANCASTER, CA – January 25, 2010) — On Tuesday, January 19, 2010, Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) became a Paramedic Base Hospital Operation for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). As a “base station,” AVH certified Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN) provide direction and support to EMS vehicles in the field and help control the flow of patients to all area hospitals.

“Becoming a base station is very important to the care of emergency room patients in the Antelope Valley,” explained Elizabeth Reid, RN, AVH Director of Emergency Services. “By having our ER nurses directly communicate with the EMS in the field, we can coordinate the patient’s care before they arrive at the hospital.”

The patients will also benefit when they arrive at the hospital because the staff will be prepared and ready for that patient’s injuries or illness. “Becoming a base station is an integral part of our Trauma Level II initiative,” said Barbara Anspach, RN, MSN, Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning. “We have invested in the latest, state-of-the-art radio equipment and specialized MICN training for our nurses to better serve the Antelope Valley and outlying communities.”

The base station expects to answer an average of 1,600 trauma calls per month which have been handled by three different facilities in the Los Angeles area in the past.



(Left to Right) Wanda Cruz and Sara Stamback take calls from EMS in the AVH Base Station

By having one base station coordinate all calls in the Antelope Valley, it will streamline the determination of which trauma cases stay in the AV and which ones are transferred to a Los Angeles Trauma Center.

“Without the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, becoming a base station and applying for Trauma Level II designation would never have been possible for Antelope Valley Hospital,” said Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “Supervisor Michael Antonovich and his staff have been very focused on ensuring that the residents of the Antelope Valley have the necessary healthcare facilities and resources. They should be commended for their efforts to improve health care in the Antelope Valley.”

Photo name: AVH_BaseStation.jpg

Photo caption: (Left to Right) Wanda Cruz and Sara Stamback take calls from EMS in the AVH Base Station

Photo credit: Ellen Driscoll

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call (661) 949-5000.

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