



ROWAN COUNTY EMS

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RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

IMPROVING READINESS

The goal is to streamline activities so crews are prepared and able to quickly respond to the next call.

- Immediately after a call, the driver is responsible for cleaning and restocking the ambulance. The attendant should consult with the driver to ensure that all medications and other supplies are replaced.
- Make every effort to complete the ACR at the ED. A copy should be left for addition to the patient's chart.
- ACRs completed after leaving the ED should be dropped off at the ED as soon as possible.
- Pay attention to expiration dates on medications and IV fluids. Use the oldest items first whenever possible.
- When transporting to RRMC, leave soiled linen in the hamper in the back hall of the ED.
- Linen from patients transported to other locations is bagged and returned to station 87. Twice weekly this goes to laundry at RRMC.
- Resupply at RRMC is located in the locked cabinet in the back hall.
- Bag valve masks and extension sets are exchanged at RRMC.
- Crews are to select the necessary equipment and carry it to the patient location.
- On calls to physicians' offices, clinics or out-patient areas of the hospital, it is expected that the patient will return by ambulance. Check with staff on the anticipated waiting time. When delays are likely, make arrangements to leave the patient and return later.
- At shift change or when changing to a new ambulance, walk around the vehicle and check for safety problems. (Leaking fluids, broken windows or mirrors, body damage, bad tire.)

IMPROVING READINESS (continued)

ROWAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

- Check all gauges, temperature, oil pressure, voltage meter and ammeter for normal readings.
- Check that the fast idle is working.
- Once in motion, check the emergency brake and the main brake. They should be firm and functional.
- While driving, check the steering. Be sure it does not have excessive play.
- The crew is to complete and turn in a Daily Safety Inspection form.
- Weekly, on Saturday, drive the ambulance about five miles. Check the transmission fluid for the proper level while the unit is running and in park. Double check before adding fluid. (Prime Time crew should do this on Friday.)
- Once a week check the level of brake fluid. Take care not to contaminate the brake fluid with water.
- Once a week monitor the water level in both batteries. Add as needed.
- Once a week note the tire pressure in all tires, including the spare.
- To avoid a possible explosion when jump starting a vehicle, connect the cables to the positive battery post first. Then connect the negative cable ends to metal parts of the units away from the batteries. After the unit is running, stand back and disconnect the negative cables first. Look away from the batteries when performing this action.
- EMS crews are to take meal breaks within their assigned districts.
- Patients are not guaranteed a private ambulance. If multiple patients can be transported safely, do so, to expedite availability of units.