

EMS System Annual Report 2021



Kern County Emergency Medical Services Program



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EMS MANAGER

“2020 was a year that tested our courage, empathy, resilience, patience and our resolve.”

That’s how I opened my message last year. If that was the affect 2020 had on us, how did 2021 affect us?

I believe 2021 forced us to come together as one and think outside the box. To consider ideas and implement changes that had never been and would never be considered if not for the pandemic. For example, Kern County was the only county in the state that received State Sponsored APOT Task Force Strike Teams and we were the only county to successfully secure ambulance strike teams along with additional paramedic staffing from other states. Additionally, Kern was second only to Sacramento in the number of State funded expansion beds brought into our county. At one point we added 72 total beds to our system allowing for the increased COVID-19 surge.



I believe that 2021 brought us to the brink and together, as one, we rose to the occasion, stared the pandemic in the face and came out the other side stronger.

To the men and women who showed up for work, day in and day out, during the second year of this seemingly never-ending virus, I applaud you. Each Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Dispatcher, Nurse, and Physician that worked through the stress, exhaustion, and the fear brought about by the pandemic, are simply put, Hero’s.

I hope that each of you know that you are responsible for saving hundreds of lives by your courage, dedication, and your commitment to the people of Kern County. Thank you.

As we move forward in a post pandemic world EMS is focusing on the issues that need to change in order to assure that we remain successful in providing the appropriate level of care to the residence and visitors of Kern County.

I am very excited about what the future holds for us and I am looking forward to working with all of you to implement changes that will improve our system as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fariss
EMS Program Manager

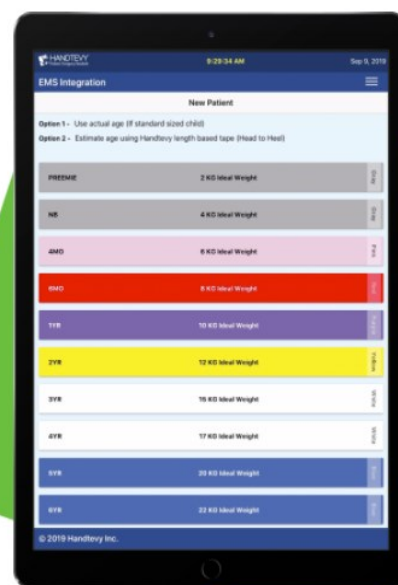
Implementation of Handtevy



Handtevy is a customized app that rapidly calculates medication dosages and equipment sizes for pediatric and adults. Handtevy also records and timestamps the date and time the medication was delivered. This information can be transferred to the ePCR for documentation as well. Handtevy is a pediatric resuscitation system that is proven to save lives and reduce errors.

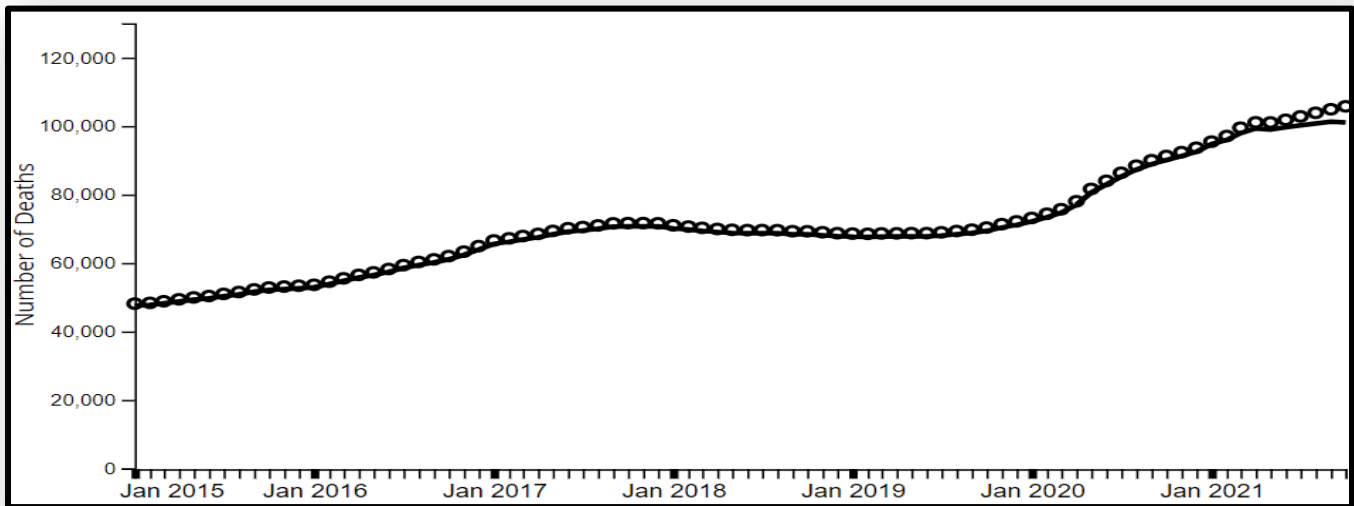
Mobile Features

- Rapid Dosing in Volume
- Consistent Mixing Instructions
- Equipment size for pediatrics and adults
- Documentation in Real Time
- Integrates into the ePCR all critical treatment provided
- CPR assist feature which provides audio/ visual cues



New Policies Implemented in 2021

The National Center for Health Statistics have reported overdose deaths in the United States which surpassed 100,000 in 2021. Opioid deaths in the United States have increased from 56,064 in 2020 to 75,673 in 2021.



To help combat this issue, Kern County EMS has developed 2 new policies for both the patient as well as law enforcement.

Narcan Leave Behind

This policy provides guidelines for EMS personnel to provide an intra-nasal naloxone delivery device to patients who are at high risk for fatal opioid overdose.

Naloxone use by Law Enforcement

This policy describes the criteria for law enforcement officer administration of intranasal (IN) Naloxone Hydrochloride (Naloxone) in cases of suspected acute opioid overdose.

COVID 19 Response in 2021

In the beginning of 2021, EMS assisted with the vaccination of public health staff as well as the general public in Kern County.

EMS played a part in transporting both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine to clinics, pharmacies, and other various vaccination sites to better assist organizations in administering the vaccine.

At various times EMS would volunteer traveling to those that would want the vaccine however did not have a way of transportation to a vaccination site. EMS would administer, observe, and fill out proper documentation to better assist the public.



EMS took on the responsibility of observing those who were administered the vaccination at the Kern County Fairground. This operation would see a total of 117,120 Kern County residents between those at the Kern County Fairgrounds as well as the pop up clinics that were held through the county.

Fairgrounds



- During 2021, Kern County Public Health was able to administer 117,120 vaccine doses with a large amount of vaccinations taking place at the Kern County Fairgrounds. EMS played a major roll in this operation by helping to set up the site, administration of the vaccine, and observing those vaccinated for any adverse reactions. Kern County EMS worked along side with various organizations in completing this task.



Strike Teams

Kern County EMS Program requested mutual aid Ambulance Strike Teams that were brought from surrounding counties to assist the 911 system. The strike teams responded within a short time frame to handle the counties immediate needs for ambulances. Kern County EMS program was able to secure various Paramedic personnel from out of state to be placed in the 911 system.

- Ambulance strike teams consist of 5 ALS or BLS ambulances with 1 Ambulance strike team leader.
- 7 Ambulance strike teams were sent to Kern County to assist with the increase in the amount of patients

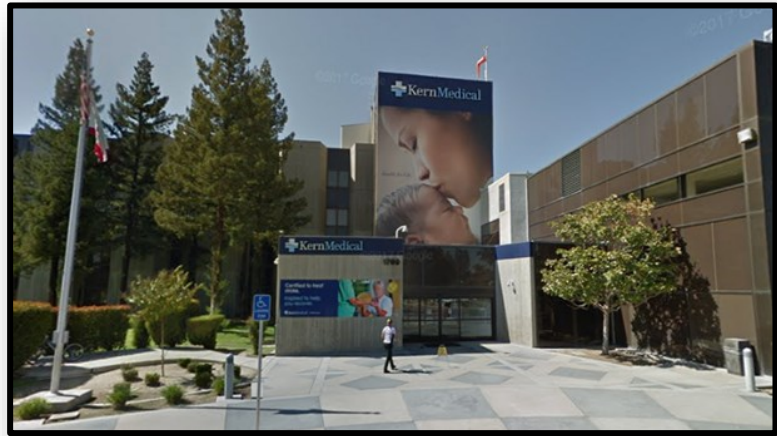


- 2 ambulance strike teams were sent to Adventist Health Bakersfield, Mercy Truxton, and Mercy Southwest.
- 5 Ambulance strike teams were integrated into the 911 system.
- CALMAT staff was used for assisting Mercy Truxton ER
- State contracted staff were sent to assist in ambulance patient offload times.

Hospital Bed Expansion

In January, Kern County EMS in collaboration with CDPH began working with the state to bring additional aid and assist in the growing number of patients. Together we began to bring in additional staff, equipment, and beds into Kern County to assist Kern Medical, Adventist Health Bakersfield, Adventist Health Delano, and Good Samaritan Hospital.

- Kern Medical received expansion staff to increase their capabilities
- Adventist Health Bakersfield received 15 ICU beds
- Adventist Health Delano received 15 med surg beds



Good Samaritan Hospital received:

- 1) 18 med surge beds
- 2) 14 ICU beds
- 3) Vents, IV pumps, and PPE were given to the facility for support
- 4) Staff to manage Good Samaritan Hospitals current beds as well as additional staff for the additional ICU and Med Surg beds. The staff included RNs, LVNs, Respiratory Therapists, and Phlebotomy techs

The staff and equipment combined provided the much needed support for these facilities to care for patients in Kern County.

New Additions to EMS

Through out 2021, Kern County EMS expanded its program by adding 2 additional EMS Coordinators and to help assist in the workload and responsibilities that EMS is in charge of.

Edlin Blankenship was hired on March 8th, 2021. Edlin was given the responsibility to handle Accreditation/Reaccreditation, Pediatrics, Trauma, and EMD. Edlin has gone above and beyond assisting with the COVID-19 Response.



Anthony Dominguez was hired on August 28th 2021. Anthony was given the responsibility to handle, Quality Improvement, Stroke, Compliance, and Pre-hospital Continuing Education Providers. Anthony has also assisted in the vaccination sites through out Kern County.

Moving Forward

Kern County EMS is actively working on new ways to analyze and responding to calls in the 911 system.



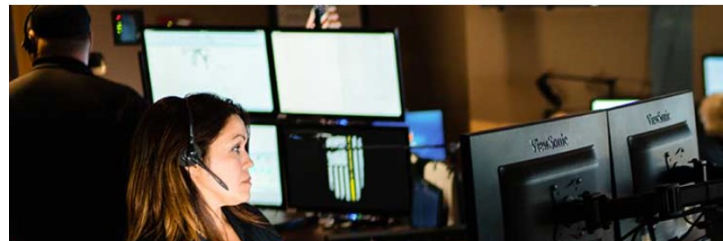
First watch will be connecting with Image Trend to produce real time data allowing EMS to review data much more rapidly.

Reddinet will interface via a bi-directional communication link with FirstWatch allowing EMS to have real time status updates and improved communication with hospitals.



Tele911 integrates with EMS Agencies to allow for physician assessment and treatment at the scene or alternate destination transport.

EMS is currently conducting an exhaustive review of all EMD response codes. It is our goal to develop a response plan that is based on data findings.



Thank You to Our Providers

Adventist Health Bakersfield
Adventist Health Delano
Adventist Health Tehachapi
Bakersfield Heart Hospital
Bakersfield Memorial Hospital
Kern Medical
Kern Valley Healthcare District
Mercy Hospital
Mercy Southwest Hospital
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
Pro Safety
Trinity Safety Group

Bakersfield City Fire Department
California City Fire
China Lake Naval Weapons Station
Delano Ambulance Service
Edwards Air Force Base
Hall Ambulance Services, Inc
Kern County Fire Department
Kern County Sheriff Office
Liberty Ambulance Service
Mercy Air Service
Rio Tinto

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