

County EMS adding 9th station

Lexington County EMS Substations

- Unit 1
108 Harbison Blvd.
Irmo, SC, 29063
(Irmo Fire Department)
- Unit 2
300 Oak St.
West Columbia, SC, 29169
(South Congaree Fire Department)
- Unit 3
500 Charlie Rast Rd.
Swansea, SC, 29160
(Swansea Magistrate's Office)
- Unit 4
231 West Church St.
Batesburg, SC, 29006
(Batesburg Magistrate's Office)
- Unit 5
112 Park Road
Lexington, SC, 29072
(Lexington Fire Department)
- Unit 6
107 Lexington Ave.
Chapin, SC, 29036
(Chapin Fire Department)
- Unit 7
1800 Twelfth St.
Cayce, SC, 29033
(Cayce Fire Department)
- Unit 8
2639 Boiling Springs Road
Lexington, SC, 29072
(Boiling Springs Fire Department)

By Clay Murphy

The Dispatch-News

Lexington County will soon be adding a ninth EMS unit, to be located in the Hollow Creek area of the county.

Mike Drennon, a Lexington County paramedic for 18 years, said the unit is needed to handle the increased calls the county is getting.

"With the recent population explosion in Lexington County, the call volume has literally exploded with it," Drennon said.

County EMS Coordinator Tom Gross said the call volume has gone from less than 600 per month to around 1000 per month in recent years.

"Last year our eight units handled about 12,000 calls, about 35 a day, that were strictly emergency," Gross said. "This doesn't include the moving of the elderly or handicapped that we do on a non-emergency basis."

Drennon said, unlike popular belief, EMS units are constantly moving to help cover areas left open by other units on call.

"Every time a truck goes to a scene, the surrounding units shift to cover that area in case of a call," Drennon said.

Gross said each unit carries at least one EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and one paramedic.

He said paramedics, unlike EMTs, are able to administer medication, evaluate EKG



Ready to serve from the Lexington County EMS Unit are EMT Terry Wingard, paramedic Mike Drennon, paramedic David Hunter, and EMT Mike Gillis. (Photo By Clay Murphy)

readings and use electric countershock to restart hearts.

Gross said the additional unit would be helpful in lowering the county's EMS response time, which is slightly higher than

the state average.

"According to DHEC, our final quarter of 1992 average response was 10 minutes while the state's was around nine," Gross said.