

EMS System Annual Report 2025



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

3. A Message From Our EMS Manager

4-7. Operations Updates

8. Emergency Preparedness Updates

9. EMS in the Community

11. Future of EMS

12. Thank You to our Providers

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EMS MANAGER

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with appreciation and pride for all that we have achieved together as a team here in Kern County. This year tested us in new ways, while also presenting opportunities to grow, improve, and strengthen the services we provide. As always, our EMS team met these moments with professionalism, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the community we serve.

Over the past year, we continued advancing our EMS system through strategic investments in technology, ongoing improvements to our dispatch and communications infrastructure, and an increased reliance on data to guide decision-making. These efforts have enhanced our ability to deliver high-quality care, improved response capabilities, and ensured we remain responsive to the changing needs of our community.

Training and workforce development remained a central focus in 2025. We expanded access to advanced clinical training, strengthened leadership development pathways, and supported career growth across all levels of our organization. Welcoming new team members into our system brought valuable perspectives and reinforced our collective strength.

Our commitment to community engagement continued to grow. Through expanded outreach efforts, public education campaigns, and participation in local events, we strengthened our connection with the residents we serve. Initiatives such as hands-only CPR, Water Watchers, and heat safety awareness once again helped equip our community with the knowledge and tools to stay safe.

Equally important has been our dedication to the well-being of our EMS professionals. This year, we continued to build on our wellness initiatives by enhancing access to mental health resources and reinforcing a culture that prioritizes balance, support, and resilience.

As we look toward 2026, we do so with confidence and clear direction. We will continue to pursue innovation, strengthen our partnerships, and invest in the development and well-being of our team. Our commitment to excellence in patient care and public service remains as strong as ever.

It is a privilege to serve alongside each of you. Your dedication, compassion, and hard work make a lasting impact on the lives of those in our community. Thank you for everything you do. I am confident that together, we will continue to move forward with purpose and achieve even greater success in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fariss
EMS Program Manager



EMS Staff



Operations Updates

In 2025, the Operations Staff made a significant amount of changes to the EMS system as we know it. All of which include updating the EMS personnel accreditation policies, promoting more jobs in EMS, expanding protocol usage in the field, and instructing our citizens of Kern County on basic tools for survival or resuscitation. Our team not only made its presence known throughout EMS, but also inside our communities, urban and rural.

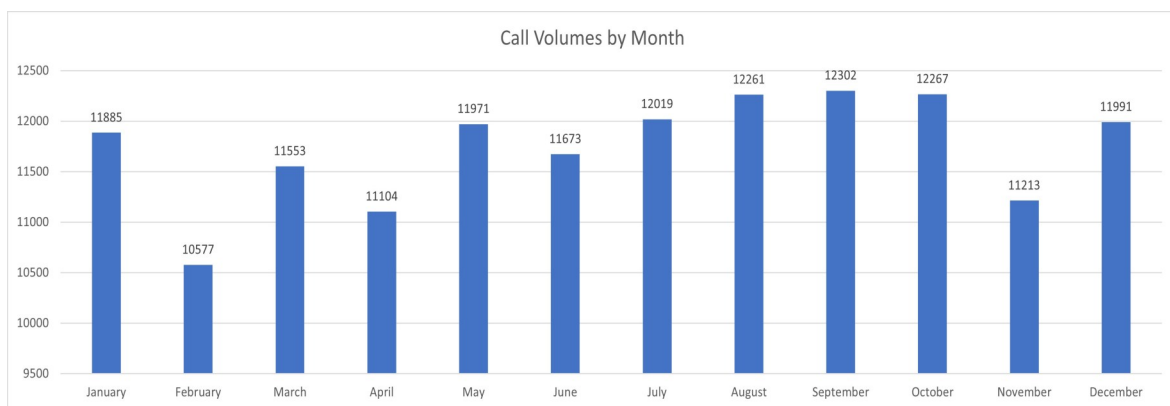
Throughout the year the Operations team trained a total of 500 civilians on the use of Hands-Only CPR. Further, as many as 100 individuals were trained in use of Stop the Bleed and how to control a life threatening injury as a layperson.

Further changes were made to all the future QI and System Collaborative meetings.

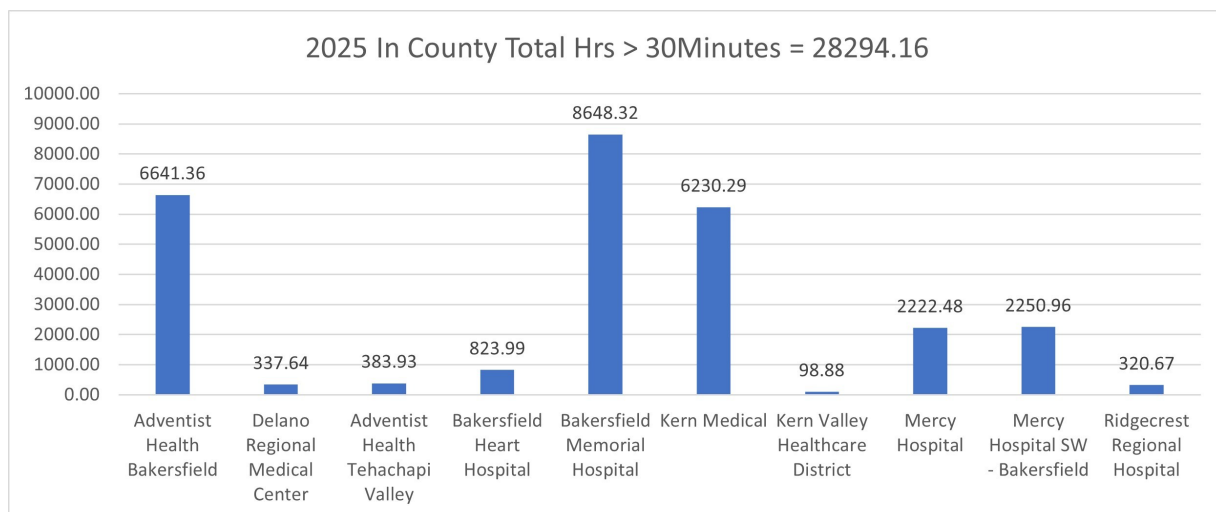
Operations Updates

EMS System Numbers:

- In 2025, Kern County experienced a 911 call volume of 140816 up 1.63% from 2024.



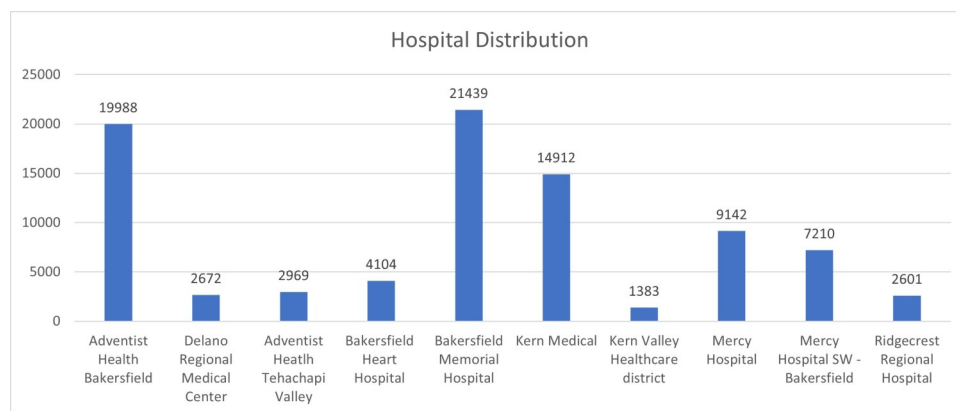
- In addition to the 911 call volume we also experienced increased Ambulance Patient Offload Times;



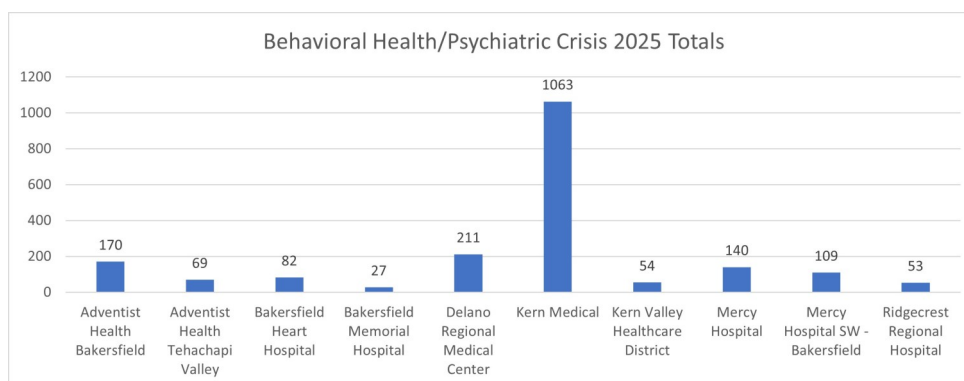
Operations Updates

EMS System Numbers:

- Hospital Distribution remained consistent with Adventist Health Bakersfield and Bakersfield Memorial receiving the highest percentages of ambulance traffic.



- Behavioral Health/Psychiatric Crisis calls also remained consistent with 53.74% being transported to Kern Medical, Kerns Psychiatric Receiving Center.



Operations Updates

EMS System Numbers:

- Total of 116 EMD coding changes, 89 downgraded, 27 were upgraded
- 668 ePCRs randomly selected for audit
 - 10% received grade C
 - 14% received grad B
 - 76% received grade A
- 59 MICNs, 39 EMDs, 172 Paramedics, 8 Paramedic Preceptors, and 1180 EMTs were reaccredited or initially added to the system
- Over 164 new first responders were granted “Verified Responder” status on PulsePoint. This was done in effort to provide more qualified off-duty responders to the homes of our citizens when in a crisis.

Kern County Public Health/EMS Ready to Respond



Emergency Preparedness Updates

The Kern County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Team — including the MHOAC, Region 5 RDMHS's, HCC Coordinator, Grant Manager, and Safety Officer — continues to lead an expansive range of critical functions supporting local and regional disaster readiness. Through direct incident response, planning coordination, resource management, and internal safety efforts, the team has demonstrated exceptional performance and impact across Kern County, Region V and the state of California.

- **Major Incident Coordination & Response**

- * Hwy 58 and Tower line incident
- * Hwy 99 Incident
- * 2026 Mid-February Storms
- * Statewide Heat, Homeland Security and Civil Unrest
- * Helium Gas
- * Infant Botulism
- * Salt Fire
- * Garnet Fire
- * Gifford Fire
- * Valley Children's Power Outage
- * Adventist Health Telemetry Outage

Preparedness & Healthcare System Development

- **Healthcare Coalition (HCC):** Continued coordination with partners through drills, trainings, meetings, and funding support to strengthen disaster response capacity.
- **MHOAC & EP Team Activities:**
 - * Assisting in the review and update of the Regional Infectious Disease Transport Plan
- **Acquired key assets:**
 - * ISOVAC ISOPD Infectious disease transport pod
 - * Various Redundant communications equipment updates

Emergency Preparedness Updates

Training, Exercises & Professional Development

- **Drills and Exercises:**

- * Edwards AFB Table Top Exercise
- * Kern and Fresno County MRSE Exercise
- * Meadows Field Table Top Exercise
- * Los Angeles County HRA Full Scale Exercise
- * Kern County HCC Table Top Exercise
- * Bakersfield College MCI Exercise
- * Kaweah Hospital Exercise
- * Kern County OES Exercise
- * State of California Transportation Plan Exercise
- * Bakersfield Rehab Exercise

- **EOC Credentialing:**

- * Supporting Kern County's transition to a Type III EOC
- * Secured grant funding for in-person required trainings, open to all county departments
- * EP team staff are working toward full EOC position certification

Emergency Preparedness Updates

- **Trainings & Certifications:**

- * MHOCSA
- * CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management)
- * EOM (Emergency Operations Manual)
- * Advance ASTL (Ambulance Strike Team Leader)

- **Participated in and coordinated:**

- * MHOCSA (Medical Health Operational Area Coordination)
 - * Ambulance Strike Team Leader (ASTL) Course
 - * Regular coalition-led drills, quarterly meetings, and ICS-focused sessions
-



Future of EMS

- More protocol and procedure updates
- Continuing public outreach and education
- Build HCC through more trainings and exercises
- Building county and regionwide communication plan
- Improved structure of meeting planning
- Technology in EMS

Thank You to Our Providers

Adventist Health Bakersfield

Adventist Health Delano

Adventist Health Tehachapi

Adventist Health Specialty

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 Department

China Lake Naval Weapons Station

Edwards Air Force Base

Hall Ambulance Services, Inc

Kern County Fire Department

Kern County Sheriff Office

Liberty Ambulance Service

Mercy Air Service

US Borax



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