



Lakeway Regional Medical Center Designated As Emergency Operations Center for Lakeway and Surrounding Communities

LAKEWAY, TX – (August 31, 2015) – Lakeway Regional Medical Center has just been designated the Emergency Operations Center in Western Travis County. The hospital, in partnership with Emergency Medical Services, law enforcement and fire departments, as well as local elected officials from Lakeway, Bee Cave, The Hills and other surrounding communities have agreed to a fully equipped emergency operations center within the hospital.

“As our community and outlying areas continue to grow, it is critical that we have a central location where all our emergency responders can gather to manage any type of crisis situation,” said Joe Bain, Mayor of Lakeway. “Lakeway Regional Medical Center has the necessary emergency equipment, supplies and resources to serve as the Emergency Operations Center and is the logical location for all the surrounding communities to gather should it become necessary.”

In the event of a natural or man-made emergency, communities require a crisis communications center where all emergency personnel and community leaders can gather to disseminate information and handle the crisis as it evolves. The Lakeway community has grown exponentially and recent emergency drills suggested that a larger facility with more resources was necessary to properly address an impending crisis. With all the new developments and improvements undertaken by the new management team, Lakeway Regional Medical Center became the clear choice.

“Travis County lends our support to the efforts of Lakeway and the surrounding communities to provide additional resources on the ground in communities further west of Austin,” said Stacy Moore-Guajardo, Emergency Management Coordinator for Travis County. “The partnership

among the community resources and Lakeway Regional Medical Center is truly unique and enhances the emergency services cooperation in that part of the county.”

In the case of a crisis, Lakeway Regional Medical Center’s Emergency Operations Center will be responsible for the strategic overview, or "big picture,” of the disaster and will collect, gather and analyze data; make decisions that protect life and property, maintain continuity of the organization, within the scope of applicable laws; and disseminate those decisions to all concerned agencies and individuals.

“We are very proud to be the Emergency Operations Center for our community and other cities around Lakeway,” said Philippe Bochaton, CEO of Lakeway Regional Medical Center. “Our command center is fully equipped and functional with resources to handle any kind of crisis. We need to think ahead of any type of disaster and, while we hope we never actually have to use the command center, all of the necessary emergency personnel and responders are ready.”

Emergency Operations Centers are essential in the handling of crisis situations. For example, the recent floods in Wimberley required multiple emergency response units to handle the immediate needs of search and rescue in addition to the long term recovery efforts. A centralized location creates order and organization in the midst of quick chaos, as was the situation during the floods. Equally concerning are infectious disease type situations, that require careful quarantine measures to prevent further contamination while patients are treated. Lakeway Regional Medical Center has the necessary resources to address the variety of issues that could be presented during a man-made or natural disasters.

In order to be designated as an Emergency Operations Center, the institution must be able to alert staff within and external to the facility, including EMS and coalition/partner health care facilities; medical, administrative, and support staff; and clinical care committee members. The center also must have technical experts available, including those in toxicology, radiation safety, infectious disease, critical care, emergency medicine, trauma surgery, blood banking, dialysis, pediatrics, burn surgery, and mental health personnel. Due in large part to the improvements



made at the hospital, Lakeway Regional Medical Center has earned the confidence of the community to serve as the Emergency Response Center.

About Lakeway Regional Medical Center

Lakeway Regional Medical Center (LRMC) is a state-of-the-art medical campus dedicated to the delivery of world-class health care, LRMC provides services in emergency medicine, neurosurgery, orthopedics, neurology, cardiology, general surgery, gastroenterology, women's health. For more information about LRMC, visit lakewayregional.com or call 512-571-5000.

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