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No Snow Days When Caring for Patients

Decatur, TX - While many area businesses closed down due to the bad weather last week, patient care didn't skip a beat at Wise Regional Health System.

“Approximately 60 employees stayed overnight at the hospital. This included nurses, housekeepers, dietary employees, techs, respiratory therapists, lab and x-ray personnel, admissions clerks, and maintenance. Almost every department had staff members bring bags and plan to stay for the duration, some staying up to 3-4 nights,” said Sue Sewell, Chief Nursing Officer. “Staff who were here volunteered to stay extra days even after their shifts were over to cover for co-workers who couldn't make it in.”

Wise Regional's ER Director, LeAnn Cummings said, “Our entire surgery crew slept here to make sure they were available, when needed. Dr. Cruz, a cardiologist, drove through the snow to get here for a cardiac patient.”

The local Fire and EMS services also played a significant role in providing patient care. Transport times were nearly twice as long at some points, but they provided continuous communication to the Emergency Room on patient conditions and estimated arrival times.

“Our staff performed above and beyond the normal call of duty to ensure that our hospital continued providing the excellent health services that our community must have,” said Steve Summers, CEO. “There are many stories of difficulty and hardship in taking care of the hospital and putting our patients first, above family and personal convenience and comfort. I couldn't be more proud of the efforts provided under the circumstances.”

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