



Fort Carson-MEDDAC News

Hospital sets its severe weather policy for winter

By: Stacy Neumann, Medical Department Activity Public Affairs

Each day, Evans Army Community Hospital providers see more than 2,600 outpatients, 150 emergency room cases and fill almost 3,000 prescriptions. It means, like many organizations, a little snow or ice can disrupt its regulated, scheduled machinery.

Col. John M. McGrath, Medical Department Activity commander, said, "When those days come around, it's about the safety of the Evans Family and our beneficiaries. We continue to take care of our emergency cases and our inpatients. Safety dictates everything else."

Fort Carson's U.S. Army Medical Department Activity implements specific severe weather procedures when warranted by outdoor conditions. These are triggered by the installation's determination about reporting conditions due to severe weather.

If Fort Carson calls for delayed reporting for non-essential personnel, EACH clinics will continue to operate on their normal schedules. Other than the Emergency Department, walk-ins will not be accepted. Beneficiaries with scheduled appointments will be seen but will not be counted as a "no-show" if they decide to stay home to avoid poor road conditions.

"We understand that some people will want to make their scheduled appointments. Drive carefully. If you are late, it's okay," said McGrath. "But if you feel that it's too dangerous out there, it would be great if you give us a call and let us know you're staying home."

Patients who miss their appointments should call the Care Line at (719) 526-CARE (2273) to cancel and reschedule their visit for the earliest opportunity. Patients who book their appointments or their dependent minor's appointments through TRICARE Online can cancel online anytime.

During a Fort Carson installation closure, only the Emergency Department and inpatient services will continue to operate at Evans Army Community Hospital. Clinics will call beneficiaries, cancel all scheduled appointments and help patients reschedule their visits.



Fort Carson-MEDDAC News

Should the installation call for a phased-early release due to deteriorating road conditions, the clinics will see patients in the facility and attempt to contact people who are booked later in the day to reschedule.

“We want to make sure everyone is informed,” emphasized Scott Tanner, MEDDAC Chief of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. “As an organization, we’ll implement our inclement weather plans. Communication with our staff and beneficiaries is a priority.”

During severe weather, MEDDAC will post the hospital’s operations status on its website at www.evans.amedd.army.mil and its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EvansArmyCommunityHospital.