

STARS[®] 40



**SADDLE HILLS
COUNTY**

**MUNICIPAL
MID-YEAR REVIEW**



Thank You Saddle Hills County

In the last year, Saddle Hills County has been a part of enabling us to always be ready for the patients who need us: people who are facing the most urgent, life-threatening health emergencies that medical professionals will ever see.

Your commitment provides essential training and tools for critical care, from necessary technology to equipment, and most importantly, your support makes that immediate response possible for people every day.

In our 40th anniversary year, we've been fortunate to reflect on some of the innovations and advancements in technology we've been able to implement, thanks to generous allies like you.

From new computers for our Emergency Link Centre and pieces of advanced medical training equipment for the crew, to proprietary GIS mapping systems and new H145 helicopters, you've been there to help us through it all.

Because of you, patients throughout the Prairies have access to critical care, anywhere - physically or virtually, in whatever capacity we can help. We are so grateful to have such dedicated allies like you, who ensure our crews are always ready to respond when someone needs us most.

From all of us at STARS, and on behalf of the patients we serve, **thank you.**

Innovation & Technology



In the last year, STARS has been proud to implement or trial several new pieces of technology that play a critical role in the care we are able to provide. Operational support from allies like Saddle Hills County enhances our ability to innovate and be at the forefront of the best care available for our patients. Some examples include:

FIBREOPTIC BRONCHOSCOPE

In emergency situations, ensuring a patient has a secure airway is absolutely critical. But in certain cases, when there is trauma to the airway, excessive swelling or even if the patient has atypical anatomy, intubation can be difficult.

Recently, STARS has been fortunate to add equipment to help with intubation, like a fiberoptic bronchoscope – a bronchial camera at the end of a flexible scope that goes down the throat and allows physicians to see past the vocal cords and into the windpipe to more easily place a breathing tube.

“Airways, breathing and ventilation are very, very important, and so being able to optimize that during transfers will have a big impact on patient outcomes,” said Dr. Reid Hosford, a transport physician and airway physician educator lead at STARS.

In the last year, STARS has been able to roll out this new device to all six of our bases, because of your support.

LUCAS CPR MACHINE

The Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) operates by assessing the patient’s chest wall flexibility and then delivering compressions at the precise depth and rate the patient requires.

This leading medical technology you’ve helped us secure allows the STARS crew to focus on other critical tasks with the peace of mind that the patient is receiving robust, consistent CPR.

“We know that CPR is inconsistent, so we want to provide consistency for effective CPR,” explained Scott McTaggart, a flight paramedic with more than two decades of experience at STARS. “This is all based on what’s best for the patient while we’re busy in the back of the aircraft.”

The first three devices have been delivered and begun use in our Grande Prairie and Winnipeg bases, with plans to expand use across all six bases in the future.





TOWAR STUDY

For more than 100 years, blood donation and transfusion has been virtually the same. Donors' blood is separated into three parts for individual transfusion: red blood cells, plasma, and platelets.

Because of you and your support, we are proud to be participating in a study led by the University of Pittsburgh. The TOWAR (Type O Whole blood and assessment of AGE during prehospital Resuscitation) study could redefine prehospital care by offering whole-blood transfusions for severely injured patients early in their treatment.

The practice of giving trauma patients whole-blood transfusions when they reach the hospital has been associated with a greater chance of survival. The TOWAR study is designed to examine whether providing these transfusions earlier, before arrival at hospital, improves outcomes even more.

"We are all expecting that there's going to be an outcome benefit in terms of lives saved," said Dr. Doug Martin, STARS medical director.

As of 2025, the STARS helicopters are equipped with two units of whole blood on each mission.

Your support ensures STARS remains a leading-edge critical care provider for our communities.

For generations to come, STARS will be there with new innovations and technology because allies like you believe in these essential advancements.

We are truly honoured to have your support in our mission to provide critical care, anywhere, and will continue to find new ways to reach the most patients we can.

With your ongoing contributions, we're thrilled to provide advanced education to our crews and other rural health care providers, acquire equipment to further our ability to be there when the unthinkable happens, and invest in studies to ensure the best care is available to our patients.

Our partnership is of great pride to STARS, and we look forward to showing you more about the impact your gifts make in the lives of our patients.

With you by our side, we're not just saving lives, we're saving futures.

Thank you!



THE PEOPLE

Saddle Hills County

| SADDLE HILLS COUNTY / MID-YEAR MISSION OVERVIEW | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 @July 31 | TOTAL |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| NEAR BLUEBERRY MOUNTAIN | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| NEAR BONANZA | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 7 |
| NEAR CHERRY POINT *Within Saddle Hills County | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| NEAR GORDONDALE | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 4 |
| NEAR LAGLACE *Within Saddle Hills County | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| NEAR SPIRIT RIVER *Within Saddle Hills County | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| NEAR WOKING | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 6 |
| TOTAL @ July 31, 2025 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 25 |



In 2025 (mid-year statistics are up to and including July 31, 2025), because of your support, STARS was able to carry out 4 critical scene missions within Saddle Hills County. Thank you for helping to support the residents of Saddle Hills County in the communities where they live, work and play.

More than transport

STARS is much more than a means of transportation. The main service we provide has always been, and continues to be, critical care whether by air, ground, or satellite link. From transport physicians on call 24/7, to nurses and paramedics who are ready to be dispatched, to the first responders and rural health care providers, who our ELC work with daily, it's always about the patient.

STARS was built by the community, for the community, and thanks to allies like you, we can continue to reach the communities within Western Canada and the patients within who need our help for generations to come.

THANK YOU



Do you have questions about
what we do or what it means
to be an ally?

Feel free to reach out.

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