



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

EMS/Fire Brigade Trainer Does What She Teaches

Natasha West

Paramedic, Training Center Coordinator

The Grayson College instructor observed Natasha West's exceptional skills and pegged her as a teacher before West had even completed her paramedic coursework.

"She invited my friend and me to go with her to central Texas to assist in teaching a 2-day CPR class. I graduated as an EMT in 2005 and also became licensed to teach CPR and other American Heart Association classes. The college hired me as an adjunct in the EMT program in 2006 while I was attending paramedic school," West said.

After three years as a paramedic with a Denison-area ambulance service, West brought her skills and teaching ability in 2008 to Love County EMS/Fire Brigade. Shortly after she was named fulltime training coordinator.

Extraordinarily, after teaching all week in the hospital's training center, West still spends most weekends riding out on paramedic calls with the ambulance service she started with. "I do it because I enjoy it and it makes me a better teacher. I am able to tell the students how things are in the field," West said.

It takes more than book learning to be an effective EMT or paramedic, West said. "A personable and relatable attitude is the key to effective clinical care. You've got to have the 'want to' to push past fatigue, to be effective, and to convey to the patient that you are doing all you can and your actions are correct."

In addition, West teaches instructors, hospital clinical staff, and the general public how to perform lifesaving procedures. The complete list of training center courses is shown on the internet at www.lovecountyems.com or by calling the hospital at (580) 276-3347. Scholarships and discounts are available to Love County residents.

Using lifelike manikins, participants practice AEDs (which deliver a shock to restart the heart in cases of sudden cardiac arrest), airway management, intubation, intravenous and medication administration, patient immobilization and extraction, vital signs monitoring, and more.

West is a graduate of the National Association of EMS Educators Program and an instructor educator in Oklahoma and Texas. At home in Denison, she is married to Chris Sanders and has two sons, Matthew, 17, and Logan, 10. Her mother, Rebecca, who is a career CNA, and her Mema, once an EMT herself, inspired Natasha's medical interests.



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