



WEST POINT NEWS

WEST POINT, NEBRASKA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

\$1.00

EMTs get realistic hands-on training

UNMC's Simulation Nebraska truck visits West Point

One of the four University of Nebraska Medical Center Simulation Nebraska (or SIM-NE) trucks pulled into West Point two weeks ago to help train West Point local emergency medical technicians.

West Point's EMTs were presented with a child having respiratory difficulties, and with an adult male who had fallen off a roof.

The EMTs' jobs were to assess the victims, check vitals, diagnose the source of the breathing problems of the child and find the extent of the injuries of the adult.

Drew Wimer, one of the EMTs who was part of the training, said the simulators provide the most realistic hands-on training available.

"They can show smaller department scenarios that they don't see often," he said. "And the training is realistic."

He added that the manikins used in the SIM-NE trucks have the ability to bleed. They also respond to treatment provided during training.

The customized trucks, funded by a \$5.5 million

grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, feature high-tech simulation and real-life training experiences.

The training is free and targeted to rural emergency medical service agencies and rural critical access hospitals. The mobile units are vital to rural emergency responders because they bring training to the rural communities instead of making the volunteer EMTs travel for their required continuing education.

One of the four trucks is based in Norfolk to service

northeast Nebraska. Program Liaison for Simulation Nebraska Doug Dekker says the goal of the mobile training units is to cut down on travel costs for rural EMS operations and to get the training they need.

Trucks are also based in Lincoln, Kearney, and Scottsbluff, as UNMC has nursing college divisions in all four communities.

Each truck has an emergency room simulator and an ambulance simulator, with a simulation control room in the middle.



West Point emergency medical service personnel train in the SIM-NE truck. Left to right: Anna Hansen, Michael English, Trina Osuna and Drew Wimer.