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Published November 08, 2007 02:35 pm - Franklin County and Alice Hyde Medical Center have teamed up to create a fly-car service, where trained medical personnel give aid until an ambulance arrives.

Faster emergency help on way

By **DENISE RAYMO**
Staff Writer

MALONE — A unique partnership beginning in Franklin County soon will get medical help to an emergency situation even before an ambulance arrives.

Alice Hyde Medical Center and the county's Emergency Services agency created a "fly car," where a trained emergency-medical technician based at the hospital responds to a medical or accident scene and begins giving aid to a victim upon arrival.

The person works Monday through Friday during normal business hours to fill an existing gap in emergency-medical coverage for volunteer fire departments in and around Malone and northern Franklin County.

The agencies hope to have the service operational before the end of the month and may explore a similar partnership with Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake.

As it stands, ambulances and rescue squads cannot respond to a call unless an EMT is aboard, which can greatly hamper response times and could place victims at more risk.

The State Department of Health recently approved the application for fly-car service, but the county and hospital had been working for almost a year before that to put all of the pieces together.

District Attorney Derek Champagne filled one of the greatest needs when he turned over \$15,000 in drug-asset-seizure money toward a 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer, and Ellis Pontiac Buick GMC Inc. of Malone donated the final \$3,000 for the response vehicle.

Alice Hyde is hiring a full-time emergency-preparedness coordinator/EMS responder for the position. The person must hold certification in emergency

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management of a related field and have three years of experience in emergency services.

“We are pleased to be a partner in the initiative to enhance emergency-response care,” said Alice Hyde President and Chief Executive Officer John Johnson.

“The fly car will augment the accessibility of EMTs and speed the response to accident and medical scenes by ensuring the availability of basic EMT services.”

County Legislator Daniel Crippen (D-Burke) brought the idea to the county from Emergency Services Director Malcolm Jones.

Crippen said he was “proud to be a sponsor of it” and later asked Champagne for the financial donation toward the vehicle.

“It’s been an ongoing need, and it’s been a real effort by emergency services and Alice Hyde to be responsive to that,” he said.

“This makes someone available to proceed right to the scene while the EMT is en route,” Crippen said.

“Think of the time saved and the lives saved.”

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