

## **Pecos Valley Public Services**

P.O. Box 488

200 W. First Street, #516

Roswell, NM 88203

+(505) 600 3068



### **2024 Annual Report: Pecos Valley Public Services**

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This past year has been a transformative journey for Pecos Valley Public Services. We began 2024 as a recognized Search & Rescue (SAR) organization in the State of New Mexico. However, after encountering challenges related to community services and our inability to self-activate for local emergencies, we made the difficult decision to voluntarily withdraw from our role as a state-recognized SAR team. New Mexico's SAR efforts are state-supervised, and without the ability to respond directly to community needs, we recognized a significant gap in local support—one we felt compelled to fill.

Our pivot began in the winter, as we shifted focus toward becoming a broader community service provider to better serve our immediate region. As a former SAR team with extensive expertise in wilderness aid and rural rescue, we initially faced some resistance in our new role. It was understandable that there were initial doubts.

In the early months of 2024, we provided first aid and support services through the HOME (Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement) program, a state-supported initiative, assisting the unhoused population in the county.

In early summer, we dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to assist those displaced by the Ruidoso fire. During the peak of the crisis, our team worked tirelessly in shelters and on the streets, providing essential services to fire refugees. Despite dwindling supplies like food, medical items, blankets, and hygiene products, we persevered, ensuring the community received the care it needed. After the fire crisis subsided, we resumed our efforts supporting vulnerable populations, pursued an EMS certification, and expanded our community outreach.

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[www.pecosvalley.org](http://www.pecosvalley.org)

Pecos Valley Public Services is a State Of New Mexico licensed EMS Service and a registered overdose prevention provider under NMSA 24-23-1 and NMAC 7.32.7.

Tax-ID 92-0952633

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Throughout the year, we made significant strides in public safety training, certifying numerous individuals in CPR/AED and “Stop the Bleed” techniques. Beyond training, we provided urgent aid to people stranded in wilderness areas and offered medical standby and first-aid support at major local events, including the Chaves County 4-H FFA Fair, the Eastern New Mexico State Fair, the Walk of Hope, the Boys & Girls Club “Bubble Run,” and the Sertoma Colt Classic baseball tournament.

Our presence was felt across the county, and we made an impact wherever help was needed.

Our services were made possible through partnerships with organizations such as “Food Not Bombs” Roswell, Roswell Disaster Relief Services, the American Red Cross, Eastern New Mexico State Fair, the Chaves County Health Council, and other nonprofit organizations.

By October, it was clear that we had been busier than ever. We tripled our volunteer hours compared to the previous year, and then the unexpected struck again—a flood. On that Saturday night, we conducted water rescues and provided medical standby at the ENMSF shelter for six days, at the request of the American Red Cross. Once again, our supplies were stretched thin, but our volunteers pressed forward.

In total, Pecos Valley Public Services contributed over 800 hours of volunteer service in 2024—equivalent to more than 100 full workdays, provided entirely free to the community. For a volunteer-based organization, this was no small feat. In addition to offering trained, certified, and insured volunteers, we also provided the necessary tools, vehicles, and equipment to respond to crises.

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Our efforts made a tangible difference. From responding to two major disasters to ensuring the safety and well-being of the community at local fairs, events, celebrations, and regular outreach activities, we have been there every step of the way. Whether aiding fire refugees, providing care at the warming center for those without homes, or supporting cancer survivors at the Walk of Hope, our mission has remained the same: to serve our community without expecting anything in return.

As we reflect on the year, we are immensely proud of the work we've done and the impact we've had. Pecos Valley Public Services has proven that when the community needs help, we will always be there. As we look to the future, we remain committed to growing our services and continuing to support those who need it most. It will not be easy. Emergency medical services are highly regulated and costly to obtain the required licenses and certifications. But as always—we will manage.

We are pleased to report the addition of three new volunteers to our team, two of whom have medical backgrounds. Alongside this growth in personnel, we have enhanced our operational capabilities by acquiring new equipment and upgrading our vehicles with generators, air conditioning, and solar-powered systems. These improvements aim to provide greater comfort and support, not only to our volunteers and fellow first responders but also to those in need of our assistance.

Additionally, we upgraded our computerized phone system to ensure uninterrupted, around-the-clock service. This system now automatically forwards calls to standby volunteers whenever urgent assistance is required, ensuring a reliable and immediate response.

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### **Our FINDME Wilderness Tracker**

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We are proud to report that approximately 100 hikers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts utilized our "FindMe" service, which we developed to assist or potentially prevent the activation of Search & Rescue operations. This service allows anyone in New Mexico to activate an automatic tracking system as an extra safety measure when venturing into the outdoors.

No special gadgets or tools are required. The system operates fully automatically, and our volunteers are alerted only if the user fails to return within their specified time frame. In total, FINDME was used by 56 different users across 97 events. Of these activations, 86% required no intervention, 12% marked themselves as "safe" after a volunteer follow-up call, 1 user contacted our hotline upon returning home due to a drained cell phone battery, and another user called a volunteer directly to report themselves as "safe." In these last two cases, a volunteer manually deactivated the FINDME tracking service.

### **Outlook for 2025**

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Over the next 12 months, we are committed to continuing and expanding our services. Our wilderness training programs will be enhanced to ensure that we remain prepared to assist the community whenever help is needed in New Mexico's deserts and rugged areas. We now have the flexibility to assist other agencies and the community with support, rescue, and urgent requests as needed.

We have already booked several medical standby and event support requests for the upcoming year. Additionally, we will continue to serve vulnerable communities in our region and deepen our cooperation with the Chaves County Health Council, other NGOs, and first responder agencies.

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Our commitment to public outreach and life-saving training remains strong, and we plan to significantly expand our efforts, particularly in raising awareness about the hidden dangers of cardiovascular disease. Many in our community, feeling healthy, have not visited a doctor for years, only to discover elevated or high blood pressure levels during quick checks provided at our events. We plan to host multiple pop-up events throughout the year, offering information, blood pressure screenings, and connecting individuals with local physicians who provide low-cost or free in-depth checkups.

We have also requested access to the New Mexico Medical Radio Network (EMSCOM) and Chaves County Dispatch Service to improve our communication capabilities. Additionally, we are evaluating the New Mexico Digital Trunked Radio System (NM-DTRS), as relying on cell phones to request additional resources has proven cumbersome in certain situations.

These enhancements will ensure safer, more efficient communication and resource coordination during our operations.

### **Summary**

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2024 was a challenging year, marked by numerous events and significant changes. Throughout the year, we experienced kindness, friendship, and cooperation, but we also faced resistance and misunderstandings from those unfamiliar with our vision and goals.

We were tested by disasters and a variety of events, and at times, we felt overwhelmed and uncertain about how to move forward. Yet, in those moments, a helping hand always emerged—whether through critical funding, much-needed assistance, or a friendly gesture that gave us the strength to persevere.

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With the deepest gratitude, we thank our dedicated volunteers, supporters, and everyone who contributed to our efforts. It is through their support that we have been able to continue serving those in need.

Today, we proudly affirm that when our community called upon us, we responded and delivered the services and assistance required.

As we move forward, we have adopted a new motto that will guide us in the coming year and beyond:

**PARATI SUMUS**

We are ready

Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Sincerely,

*Pecos Valley Public Services*

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