



In Honor Of Founder's Day, We Present An Abbreviated Biography of Harvey L. Hall and the Ambulance Company that He Built

The Dare



While working as an orderly at Mercy Hospital, Harvey ran into a friend who was working as an ambulance attendant. He dared Harvey to go on a ride along, citing they would have a good time running around with the red lights, sirens, and all that stuff.

The Founder's Era Begins



With 11 years' experience and a vision to build an ambulance company based on Harvey's ideals of care, compassion & community, Hall Ambulance began answering the call from his residence on 1307 S. H Street in Bakersfield.

Defining Standards in Patient Care



From the beginning, Harvey strived to deliver a higher level of care than was previously available. He started by requiring ambulance attendants to accompany their patients during transport and enrolling himself and his employees in the first EMT class at Bakersfield College.

Growth in the Mountain Communities

When another service suddenly ceased operations, Mr. Hall began service to Frazier Park on July 10, 1978.

Seeking to get 24-hour ambulance service to Tehachapi, the Hospital District signed an agreement with Mr. Hall to bring his service to the area starting October 1, 1978.



First Expansion to Arvin, then Lamont

On March 5, 1975, Hall Ambulance introduced its service to the ag community of Arvin and, a year later, to Lamont.



Introducing Paramedics

After an expressed interest in upgrading Hall Ambulance's EMTs with cardiac care training, Mr. Hall and the technicians decided they wanted proceed with more training to for paramedic certification. On February 24, 1975, Hall Ambulance introduced the first paramedic service in Bakersfield and Kern County.



Where Failure is not an option

Knowing that vehicle failure in EMS is not an option, Mr. Hall opened his fleet repair service in 1979.



Real Love Stories Have No Ending

A shared love of car racing brought Harvey and Lavonne together in the summer of 1986. These soul mates exchanged vows at Pioneer Village on July 15, 1989.



U.S. Paramedic Service of the Year

In 1991, Hall Ambulance became the first California EMS provider to be named the "United States Paramedic Service of the Year" by NAEMT and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Shafter

Four years later, Hall Ambulance initiated service to Shafter after longtime friend Jerry Schaefer retired, too!



Taft and the West Side

When Myron Smith, Sr. decided it was time to retire, he looked no further than his friend, Harvey L. Hall, to continue providing ambulance service to the West Side. Hall Ambulance started service on March 6, 1995.



CODE 3 Response to East Kern

When Kern County EMS received less than an hour's notice that the area's provider was ceasing operations, they contacted Mr. Hall, who soon deployed a convoy of Hall Ambulances to East Kern. The Board of Supervisors awarded the area to the Company on May 19, 1994. A month later, Hall Ambulance forged an agreement with the Muroc Hospital District to provide service to Boron.



Bakersfield's Sole Ambulance Provider

On July 6, 1999, Mr. Hall accomplished his longtime dream of being Bakersfield's only ambulance service by purchasing the operational permit for Golden Empire Ambulance.

Hall EMT Academy

Seeing a shortage of EMS workers, Mr. Hall pioneered his Company's own training program in August 2001 with the Hall EMT Academy in a public/private collaboration with Bakersfield College and Employers Training Resource.



Siren the Rescue Dog

In 2005, Hall Ambulance unveiled its new mascot, named after the Hall family's St. Bernards. EMS crews have provided the plush K-9 to every child transported ever since.



Championing the Cause

In 2015, Mr. Hall assembled California's largest ambulance providers to solve the growing gap between the cost of providing ambulance service to the state's most vulnerable residents and reimbursement by Medi-Cal.



Everything's Coming Up Roses

On April 24, 2014, Mr. Hall contacted OCD to advise Post 31 and Units 323 and 324, and its crews were ready and able to start service to the City of Wasco.



Hall Critical Care Transport

In December 2009, Mr. and Mrs. Hall ushered in a new era of medical transportation by introducing Hall CCT, staffed with an RN, paramedic, and EMT.



Dispatching for 100% of Kern County

In October 2015, the Company's Operations Control Division (OCD) assumed emergency medical dispatch for 100% of ambulance requests throughout Kern County.



Celebrating 45 Years

On February 10, 2016, Hall Ambulance celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a focus on the Company's legacy of service and community giving.



The Founder's Era Comes to an End

Just two weeks and seven hours after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Mr. Hall lost his battle with invariably fatal neurodegenerative disorder on May 19, 2018.

His impact as a pioneer in pre-hospital care carries on. In 2020, the National EMS Museum and the California Ambulance Association named Harvey L. Hall as one of 17 native Californians responsible for shaping EMS in the United States.

