



NEWS RELEASE

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Banner Estrella Medical Center ready for Super Bowl Week

PHOENIX (January 11, 2008) – Super Bowl XLII will be unlike any given Sunday. No matter the score of the football game, the Banner Estrella Medical Center team is prepared to receive any patients that reach its doors.

More than 250,000 people are expected to attend the Super Bowl and related events. Although the hospital does not anticipate any major incidents, staff will be increased the week prior to the game and on game day. The emergency department at Banner Estrella estimates the hospital will see 15 percent more patients during this time. The Emergency Department typically treats between 230 and 250 patients a day. The rise in patients may include minor construction injuries, flu related illnesses, car accidents, alcohol-related injuries, or other emergencies typically seen at the hospital.

“We have added extra staff and conducted additional training exercises to ensure we are fully prepared for any additional injuries or accidents that may result from the Super Bowl and related events,” said Davey Ellison, RN, director of the emergency services department at Banner Estrella Medical Center. “Banner Estrella is ready to handle an influx in patients.”

The hospital will open a 6th patient floor the week before the game, a week earlier than originally planned, adding an additional 36 beds. The expansion brings the total hospital bed count 208 beds.

In the months leading up to the game, hospital staff held several disaster and emergency preparedness drills, including exercises to test the surge capacity of the facility. In addition, decontamination and evacuation drills were conducted. Hospital emergency management staff are collaborating with the Glendale Fire Department, Southwest Ambulance, the Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa County Emergency Management, the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Sports Medicine Group for the NFL, and other local hospitals to prepare for the event.

Banner Estrella and Banner Thunderbird Medical Centers are sending a team of doctors and nurses to assist in medical treatment areas at University of Phoenix Stadium at the Super Bowl.

Banner Estrella Medical Center, located on the southeast corner of the Loop 101 Freeway and Thomas Road, is a full-service hospital offering general surgery, orthopedics, OB services, cardiac services with open-heart surgery and emergency services. Banner Estrella is part of Banner Health, the leading provider of health care services in the Valley with eight hospitals in Arizona and a total of 19 hospitals in the western United States.

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