

Behind Closed Doors of an E.R.

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((ODESSA, TX)) Local Big 2 News -- For Doctors and Nurses working inside an emergency room, every second counts, making decision that can determine life or death for patients.

According to data from the CDC, emergency rooms across the United States see an average of about 130-million visits a year.

Over the last 5-years Medical Center Hospital saw an average of about 50-thousand E.R. visits a year.

According to Dr. Sudip Bose, with Medical Center Hospital, there's only on thing that can be counted on inside the E.R., and that is it will be unpredictable.

"Typical night in the E.R. is that it's very atypical, you never know what you're gonna get," Bose

said.

For registered nurse, Theresa Hair, the unpredictability is part of the job that health workers thrive on.

"We go from it being completely quiet, which is a bad word in the E.R., to several traumas coming in," Hair said.

Hair says, changes in chaos within the E.R. can be affected by some unusual factors.

"We are very superstitious, we don't say quiet, we don't say slow, we check the moon, we are very superstitious," Hair said.

Any number of things can bring a person into an E.R., things like broken bones, heart attacks, and brain injuries.

However, whatever brings a trauma case into the E.R., Hair says the first few minutes can be some of the most important in patient care especially to a nurse.

"We need to know every detail that they can possibly give us, to give a better scenario of what happened to our patient," Hair said.

Dr. Bose says that trauma is all about assessing which injuries carry the highest priority, meaning anything that could affect a person's life, limbs or eyesight.

"We have to stabilize their airway, make sure they're breathing OK, make sure their blood pressures OK. And, then after that, we get to the more minor ailments they have," Bose said.

The trauma emergency room staff sees during their shifts can be very difficult, it's a reason Hair says it's important to create healthy barriers between work and one's personal life.

"You can't take it home with you. You have to find things to do to blank out the bad things you see," Hair said.

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