

## **Stone County Medical Center Inpatient Care Reopens**

**February 29, 2008** - Mountain View, Ark – Stone County Medical Center is admitting patients for care just 24 days after a tornado caused significant damage to areas of the hospital. Inpatient care services at the hospital resumed today after approval from the Arkansas Department of Health.

“The twelve beds approved for use are a part of the 2005 expansion of Stone County Medical Center, said Karen Craft, SCMC Administrator. “These rooms, along with our surgery department were spared from the storm.”

The emergency department quickly relocated to the surgery department to care for patients after the storm. Ancillary services were restored within days and outpatient surgery resumed on February 21.

A modular medical building is being assembled on the hospital campus to provide space needed to continue operations during the rebuilding process. The emergency department, laboratory, x-ray, respiratory therapy, pharmacy and other ancillary services will be moved into the building. Physicians Dr. Ron Simpson, Dr. Michelle Bishop, and Dr. Anandaraj “Andy” Subramaniam, whose offices were damaged in the storm, will reopen their clinics in the building on March 14. Drs. Simpson and Bishop can be reached at 269-4144. Dr. Andy can be reached at 269-6405.

Dr. Charles Varela, whose building was also damaged, is continuing to see patients and schedule procedures. Patients can call 269-8300 for information.

“Reopening the hospital to inpatient care is a critical first step to rebuilding Stone County Medical Center,” said Gary L. Bebow, WRHS Administrator/CEO. “We are grateful to the community for their tremendous support during this trying time and assure everyone of our unwavering commitment to healthcare services for Mountain View and the surrounding area.”

Stone County Medical Center is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving Mountain View and the surrounding area. SCMC is an affiliate of White River Health System, a multi-facility not-for-profit organization serving North Central Arkansas.