

CVPH MEDICAL CENTER NEW EMERGENCY CARE UNIT

PLATTSBURGH, NY

THE CHALLENGE

To complete a new emergency department entrance to support increased traffic while maintaining ambulance access and ambulatory patient entrances.

THE SOLUTION

Pizzagalli constructed a temporary access tunnel directly through the new construction area for continued patient access to the emergency department.

DESCRIPTION

Pizzagalli entered into a lengthy planning process with both CVPH Medical Center emergency department staff as well as local volunteer ambulance services to ensure that continuous access would be maintained and that all planned construction work and major deliveries would be scheduled appropriately. The Pizzagalli project team became a part of the Medical Center's organization, working closely with various managers and department heads to ensure continuous operation of the emergency services during construction. As the project progressed through multiple phases, the existing emergency department entrance had to be demolished. A new temporary entrance to the existing emergency department was created utilizing an elevated access tunnel. This tunnel provided protected access to the emergency department directly through the construction area, which included an addition to, and significant renovation of, the existing emergency department. An access



plan complete with all way-finding signage was developed and distributed to the local community, ambulance crews, and equipment vendors. Meetings were held to provide "dry-runs" for all EMT crews to ensure ease of access and required clearances in a constricted site. The local press was encouraged to provide coverage of the changes prior to the switch to the new entrance. The planning effort and attention to detail resulted in a seamless transition to the new temporary entrance.



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