



Delivering Life-Saving Medical Care at Salym

Salym Petroleum Development, Russia provides medical specialists and advanced equipment needed to operate safely in remote locations.

In the early morning hours of July 10, a contractor at the Salym Petroleum Development (SPD) in Western Siberia woke with severe chest pain. His neighbor immediately called an ambulance and within 12 minutes, the SPD medical team arrived at his trailer. The ambulance rushed the patient to an onsite medical clinic where doctors and nurses worked to deliver life-saving treatment. Their intervention not only saved the man's life and prevented long-term damage to the heart, but the contractor was able to return to work within four weeks.

"The nearest cardiac hospital is 300 kilometers (186 miles) away," relates Dr. Oleg Skorkin, Health Adviser/Medical Team Leader. "The doctors diagnosed the patient with a heart attack. His condition was deteriorating progressively and then a serious complication developed – ventricular fibrillations (fatal heart arrhythmia). Time was of the essence."



Ambulance at SPD Base Camp



From left to right: Konstantin Astapov (Medical Team Lea Sharafutdinova (Feldsher*, International SOS), Kovtun S SOS)

The medical team performed treatment of the patient including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and thrombolysis (intravenous injection of clot-busting medicine). "The treatment dissolved the clot that had formed in the patient's heart artery and prevented damage to the tissues and organs," Oleg says. The medicine used for this treatment is expensive, but it's been proven to save lives. "The earlier you perform the thrombolysis, the better the outcome. After six hours from the onset of a medical event, the drug is useless."

By 5 a.m., the team had stabilized the patient, and doctors accompanied the patient on the long drive to the cardiology center.

Keeping people safe

Eduard Gevorkian, Shell Health Advisor, notes the challenges of a remote location like Salym. "In the winter, temperatures can reach below 50 degrees Celsius. If weather conditions are good, the drive to a local hospital takes up to four hours. If there are winter storms, it takes much longer."

The three permanent onsite clinics and five mobile clinics at the development are equipped with advanced life-saving medical equipment and supplies, and doctors and nurses are highly qualified in emergency medicine. According to Eduard, other non-Shell assets in Russia often do not have the level of onsite medical support found at SPD. "The medical infrastructure and capabilities put in place at SPD are fully aligned with Shell's health and safety guidelines and procedures for operating in a remote location like Western Siberia. It's how we do business and keep our people safe."