

MRI Magnet Arrives to Pana Community Hospital

Wednesday, December 21st was an exciting day for Pana Community Hospital. Just before a winter storm hit our community, the MRI magnet arrived to PCH and was lifted into its new Suite. A portion of the exterior wall was removed in order for the 16,000-pound magnet to be lifted into the room. Unloading and lifting the magnet into the room took most of the day. Staff and board members were present to observe the process. Tony Ambrose of Prairie Sky Cam also had a drone on site to video the event.

“Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Pana Community Hospital Foundation was able to pay the entire cost of this \$2.6 million project,” stated Trina Casner, President and CEO of Pana Community Hospital. “We are thankful to be bringing this diagnostic service in-house.”

Cindy Miles, Diagnostic Imaging Manager has been planning for this day for over a year. “Our original building project included plans for an in-house MRI to replace the current mobile unit. The magnet is a 3-T magnet (or 3 Tesla) which is the strength of the magnet. This will provide better quality images,” stated Miles. Pana Community Hospital has several surgeons providing services in our community including four Orthopedic surgeons who now perform joint replacement procedures at PCH including hip, knee, and shoulder replacement. “This MRI machine will enhance image quality for detailed scans that the providers will use prior to surgery or to better diagnose.” The suite offers a calm, inviting environment with ambient lighting and soothing images to better accommodate patients.

Now that the magnet is in place, contractors will spend the next month completing the room and getting the equipment ready for use. PCH Diagnostic Imaging hopes to be able to provide the first scans in mid-February.



Photo Caption 1: Pana Community Hospital President and CEO, Trina Casner was able to join O'Shea staff to help remove the exterior wall panel.

Photo Caption 2: The 16,000 pound magnet is lifted into the MRI Suite.