

South County Emergency Medical Services **Monthly Update**

April 15, 2015

March proved to be a remarkable month for South County EMS. Multiple large fires, new equipment deployment, and the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient all speak to the department's service to the community.

Two large structure fires in the county, the first at the old grain mill at the Deerfield rail yard, and the second at a sugarhouse in Conway, lead to the response of dozens of fire agencies from across the region. At both scenes South County EMS provided EMS stand-by services for the firefighting operations. Positioned at the ready, the dedicated ALS crews were there to not only respond to any potential injury that may arise from the firefighting efforts, but also help support rehabilitation and health monitoring services to make sure our local fire responders stayed healthy.



In March, a local resident suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and collapsed on the sidewalk while walking into the Deerfield Elementary School. The quick actions of a passerby lead to the notification of 911 and the school nurse. As EMS, fire and police resources were being dispatched, the school nurse responded immediately with an AED and began CPR. The quick actions of community members on scene along with the school nurse, and the combined efforts of the many responders, ultimately lead to the patient regaining a heartbeat and eventually walking out of the hospital. The emergency personnel who responded that day want to extend a huge amount of gratitude to the community members present that day. If it were not for them, the good patient outcome would not have been possible. One piece of equipment that made this cardiac "save" possible was our Lucas 2 automatic CPR compression device. South County EMS is proud to announce that we have since placed into service a second such machine on the second-due ambulance.

Capital equipment expenditures, combined with remaining grant funding, has supplied the department with updated Patient Care Report computers which provide more accurate records by interfacing with our cardiac monitors. The department has also ordered updated radio equipment that will allow our crew members to enjoy reliable communications with each other and our dispatch center.

Last and certainly not least the department has received numerous applications in response to the fulltime EMT and Paramedic posting recently made. The review process is ongoing and we look forward to filling the last two vacant positions and enjoying more reliable staffing coverage by personnel familiar with our community.

Next month, on May 16th, we invite everyone to join our region's EMS and Fire responders at the Public Safety Field Day held annually at Greenfield Community College. At this all-ages event you can get up close and personal with equipment, meet and ask questions of your local responders, and even inquire about getting involved yourself. This year will be extra special with a presentation from a sudden cardiac arrest survivor, who will speak to her experience and the importance of community CPR and fast AED response, just as we enjoyed recently in Deerfield. While there are many activities for kids, everyone will surely have a good time.

Statistics:

In the first three months of 2015 (January-March), South County EMS responded to 195 calls.

Total Runs (2015):	195
Transports:	159
ALS:	109
BLS:	50
Refusals:	26
Other:	10
Deerfield:	90
Sunderland:	65
Whately:	28
Greenfield:	5
Turners:	0
Conway:	4
Amherst:	0
Hatfield:	1
Shelb. Falls:	1
Bernardston:	1

Total Runs (7/1/14 – 12/31/14): 505

Transports:	359
ALS:	212
BLS:	147
Refusals:	120
Others:	26
Deerfield:	257
Sunderland:	141
Whately:	66
Greenfield:	24
Turners:	4
Conway:	6
Amherst:	4
Hatfield:	2
Ashfield:	1

Average response time (from dispatch to arrival on scene): **7:18**

Respectfully,

Chief Zachary Smith, Paramedic
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