

South County Emergency Medical Services **Monthly Update**

August 2015

July was a busy month for South County EMS with multiple high-profile emergencies and incidents. In each case our department responded to provide both emergency medical care to potential victims and to protect the health and welfare of the other emergency responders on scene. As an entity that is often thought of only caring for emergency victims, we actually find ourselves frequently working to protect our brothers and sisters in public safety.

At the beginning of the month a kitchen fire triggered the response of multiple fire agencies to extinguish the conflagration before it could spread. South County EMS was one of the first agencies on scene, and after initially assuring the fire victim did not suffer any injuries during their escape, our crew's attention turned to keeping the dozens of emergency responders well. Emergency scenes are inherently unsafe, and firefighting operations are some of the most dangerous responders face with threats for overheating, exhaustion and heart attack. South County EMS personnel remained on scene dedicated to monitoring the health of the firefighters until the building was cold and the last responder was out.



An incident on a local river called for the response of nearly a dozen agencies across a myriad of disciplines including Dive Rescue experts. South County EMS personnel remained on scene throughout the event not only to be called on to render medical care, but also provide expert medical knowledge and consultation to the Incident Commander.



The month ended with an adult and child becoming lost and stranded on one of the many hiking trails in our area. Though our mission was ultimately no different than the others, this one was carried out in reverse. South County EMS provided support to emergency personnel at the start of the mission and then transitioned roles to patient care providers at the end. When the hikers were extricated from the woods at the conclusion of the call, South County EMS paramedics assessed the rescued individuals for injury and ultimately provided them with a courtesy transport to their waiting loved ones.

Statistics:

In the first seven months of 2015 (January-July), South County EMS responded to 403 calls.

Total Runs (2015):	466
Transports:	360
ALS:	251
BLS:	109
Refusals:	72
Other:	34
Deerfield:	241
Sunderland:	131
Whately:	70
Greenfield:	10
Turners:	1
Conway:	6
Amherst:	0
Hatfield:	2
Shelb. Falls:	1
Bernardston:	1
Leverett:	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): **7:11**

Respectfully,

Chief Zachary Smith, Paramedic
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