

# **South County Emergency Medical Services**

## **Monthly Update**

February 15, 2015

Winter came on strong in January and forced many of us to hunker down indoors to stay safe and warm. Days with unrelenting snow, even statewide travel bands, meant the threats to public safety increased greatly. Along with our sister Fire and Police departments, South County EMS added station staff during the snowstorms to maintain our rapid response times and put more trained personnel at the ready. Thankfully we ultimately received a decreased number of requests for EMS during the month.



While we staff our primary ambulance 24/7 with EMTs and Paramedics, our department's second ambulance is normally staffed by "on call" EMTs. These responders who live and work in our community, travel to the station to man the second ambulance whenever the first one is dispatched to a call. This means that second staffed ambulance is ready to respond when needed but also allows the crew members to otherwise go about their normal lives. In anticipation of worsening weather conditions, we had EMTs physically staff the second ambulance continuously during the height of the storm. This both diminished the need for our EMTs to drive in the storm to the station as well as maintaining our rapid response times. Having additional staff at the stations also allowed us to keep snow cleared from the buildings and clean and wash equipment when it returned from a call.

Administratively the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recently changed the way that EMTs and Paramedics are certified and recertified. This new process brings our state inline with the majority of the country, but has presented a steep learning curve for many of our staff members who have to relearn the bi-annual renewal process after many years of service. To help alleviate the headaches, our Training Officer Jason Dorval met with department members in January and has since developed a Continuing Education program to make sure our staff members are up to date and ready to renew their certifications in April. Being able to muscle our increased staff and resources to make sure our local EMTs are receiving ongoing EMS trainings, something they were individually responsible for in the past, has proven to be a wonderful benefit of regionalization.

**Statistics:**

In the first month of 2015 (January), South County EMS responded to 69 calls.

Total Runs (2015):	69
Transports:	53
ALS:	35
BLS:	18
Refusals:	13
Other:	3
Deerfield:	29
Sunderland:	28
Whately:	6
Greenfield:	4
Turners:	0
Conway:	0
Amherst:	0
Hatfield:	1
Ashfield:	0
Shelb. Falls	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): **7:14**

Respectfully,

Chief Zachary Smith, Paramedic  
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