

South County Emergency Medical Services **Monthly Update**

June 15, 2015

South County EMS would like to extend a well-deserved “congratulations” to our own Timothy Drumgool. Tim, a full time EMT with the department, recently completed extensive training and education to become a Paramedic. As a paramedic (the highest level of pre-hospital emergency medicine provider) Tim carries advanced knowledge in patient assessment and treatment capabilities. Not only does his success mark great personal achievement in the EMS field, his dedication to South County EMS means that our entire community will benefit from his accomplishments.

Showing just how important Paramedics are to our service, South County EMS responded to an individual who began to feel ill after waking up and decided to call 911 when they developed mild chest pain. Our on-duty crew responded immediately and arrived at their side in only five minutes. Once with the patient our paramedic began assessing the patient and determined they were having a heart attack and the crew initiated transport to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. With the ability to diagnose these conditions in the field, our staff are able to take patients directly to definitive care, in this case the Cardiac Catheterization Lab in Springfield, and bypass smaller local hospitals assuring no delays in treatment. While on the way to the hospital the patient fell into cardiac arrest, and acting quickly our crew was able to restart the patient’s heart and provide ongoing care to prevent another cardiac arrest. On arrival in Springfield the ER cardiac arrest team was pleasantly shocked to see our patient sitting up and talking. Without our own cadre of extraordinary Paramedics and EMT’s, it’s difficult to say that this patient would have experienced the same positive outcome.



The annual Public Safety Field Day held on May 16th at Greenfield Community College was a wonderful success with apparatus from numerous area departments on display. Show-and-tell sessions were available for both kids and adults. Perhaps the height of the event was the “CPR Flash Mob” organized by the Franklin County EMS Committee. EMTs from around the county including our own David Zamojski, AJ Muszynski, and Colrain Ambulance Director Gary Ponce, demonstrated all the events that take place during a cardiac arrest resuscitation, including arrival of an ambulance and advanced life saving techniques. After the demonstration a presentation was made to recognize local EMTs for their efforts during particularly difficult emergency calls. These types of presentations are normally conducted at EMT meetings, and it was a welcome change to share the awards with the public.

Lastly the South County EMS Board of Oversight has been working closely with the Town of Whately and HAI Architecture to determine the best potential use for the Western Mass Regional Library System building being considered for purchase. This facility has long been in the sights of South County EMS, and sharing its use with other municipal departments presents a mutual beneficial and fiscally responsible option for current and future department needs. South County EMS currently rents space at the South Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately fire departments but a permanent central home is needed to house all of our personnel and equipment under one roof. We are excited about our ongoing discussions and the prospect for permanent space.

Statistics:

In the first five months of 2015 (January-May), South County EMS responded to 335 calls.

Total Runs (2015):	335
Transports:	263
ALS:	178
BLS:	85
Refusals:	45
Other:	27
Deerfield:	179
Sunderland:	93
Whately:	44
Greenfield:	7
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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