

OEMSCA NEWSLETTER

Delaware County EMS uses latest technology to succeed

Delaware County EMS leadership are using technology and its membership in the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association to provide high-quality emergency medical care during thousands of runs each year.

Eric Burgess, the assistant director of Delaware County EMS, said his agency had about 6,000 squad runs last year. The organization includes 83 full-time paramedics, three advanced EMTs, six captains, one chief, and EMS office manager, and EMS maintenance technician and about 15 part-time paramedics. The large crew operates 10 advanced life support ambulances and a quick-response vehicle.

Burgess, who is a member of the executive committee of OEMSCA, said his staff is dedicated to continuously improving.

“My favorite part of the job is seeing our staff grow and develop over time,” he said.



Two Delaware County EMS advanced life support ambulances are shown.



DCEMS Assistant Chief Eric Burgess

“I place a high value on professional development and education and to see our staff achieving the goals we have set for them in this area is very rewarding.”

Burgess said his agency, like many others across Ohio and the nation, has several challenges. Some of these challenges include battling other entities, staffing shortages, drug shortages and reimbursement issues.

One way Burgess said the department tries to deal with these challenges is by using the latest products and technology.

“New technology plays a huge role in how we conduct pre-hospital medicine,” he said. “We have the ability to use real-time data to manage things like our patient care and our resources on a daily basis.”

Burgess said using real-time data makes it easier to man-

age where personnel is needed, and in this business, every minute (or second) counts.

“We can monitor our personnel and relocate them to the areas of the county where they are most needed,” he said.

Burgess also said technology helps because patient care data can be used to constantly re-evaluate how the agency operates.

“We look at our patient care data to evaluate our protocols, policies and procedures to provide the best possible outcomes for our patients,” he said.

One other way the organizations deals with challenges is by participating in the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association.

“OEMSCA is valuable to third-service EMS departments because it gives us a voice at the state and federal level to be heard on serious issues that are affecting our agencies every day,” he said.



Tri-Village Rescue Services Chief Eric Burns (front left) poses for a photo with personnel from his agency May 22. The Darke County department was honored with an Ohio Star of Life Award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Medical Services.

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“We owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude that goes beyond the call”

A message from OEMSCA Exec Board member Ken Majors

The National EMS Week 2019 slogan is EMS Strong: Beyond the Call. This brings to mind all the things that EMS professionals do in the background of the actual EMS runs and transporting patients.

In Seneca County, Ohio, the bulk of our EMS providers are volunteers. We have close to 100 EMS volunteers that keep our 6 ambulances ready to go in all respects all across our county. Most of these volunteers also work full-time jobs in a multitude of different careers. Seneca County EMS is where they all come together for a common purpose. They care about their community and the people who live in it.

Our volunteers are some of the most dedicated people that I've ever had the pleasure of working with. We have an abundance of firefighters, nurses, teachers, educators, factory workers, farmers, electricians, masons, mechanics, and people from all walks of rural life that come together to intervene in a positive way when someone is having the worst day of their lives, or when they just need a little help in a bad moment.

We have college students, grandmothers, grandfathers, retirees, and young

professionals looking to get a start in a medical career. Some of our personnel are EMT-Basic and others are Advanced EMTs and Paramedics. The commitment to ALS certification is difficult for a volunteer, but they embrace the challenge and keep up the required work to maintain their certifications. Some of our volunteers are here for only a few years, and they move on to a career in medicine or other calling. Some are here for decades, and continue to provide safe, reliable, steadfast, and loyal medical care to their patients and community members.

We have many career volunteers that are medical professionals in other areas as medicine. We have several emergency department nurses, and other RN's that maintain their EMS certifications to work in the field. We also have a bunch of career firefighter/paramedics, LPNs, and other medical personnel that selflessly give of their time and energy to ensure our squads are manned 24/7.

As leaders in EMS we recognize the value of experience and the need to provide mentorship to our young up and coming EMS professionals. We strive to develop profes-



*Seneca County EMS
Director Ken Majors*

sional, hardworking and reliable personnel to continue the EMS mission into the future. The future will continue to include the volunteer workforce in EMS and Fire in rural areas of Ohio for many years to come.

We continue to grow beyond the call of EMS. One day we may all be paid professional EMS providers. When we do, we will know that the call we answered to give of ourselves to help our fellow man was answered for many years by people who never expected anything in return. We owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude that goes beyond the call.

Ken Majors,
Seneca County Emergency Services Director



Seneca County EMS Director Ken Majors (right) accepts a proclamation from Seneca County Commissioner Holly Stacy on May 23 that recognized the week as National EMS Week. Majors said this is the 45th year of celebrating EMS as a national asset. “EMS personnel are as important to the nation’s security as any of the safety services,” he said. “It’s important to recognize EMS because they are on the front line of medical care. EMS personnel touch more lives in a positive way than any of the other safety services combined, in my humble opinion.”