

EMS Week

May 15-22 has been proclaimed "Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week." Nationally, this week is used to highlight the contributions of those whose responsibility it is to provide emergency medical aid in this county.

During 2009 Perry County Memorial Hospital Ambulance responded to almost 2,000 emergency calls for service, Perry County Memorial Hospital cared for 9,851 patients in the Emergency Department. Air Evac Life Team provided 272 patient flights.

Your Emergency Medical Service team includes Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Nurses and Techs that respond to the sick and injured. Those that care for and transport the sick and injured to medical facilities and the medical personnel on duty in the hospital emergency rooms that continue quality of care.

This week is set aside to remember those that are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer the call to serve, and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of healthcare "front line."

EMS week is also a time to promote safety and advances in EMS treatment. For example, Perry County EMS providers have led the way in obtaining 12 lead EKG's in the field, and the capabilities to transmit the EKG to the Emergency Room Physician. This provides the physician and EMS staff the ability to diagnose and impending Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) from the field and the immediate alerting of the hospital staff of the pending arrival of the patient.

The American heart Association recommends the use of pre hospital ECG's to improve the quality of care among patients with ST segment elevation myocardial infarction "heart attack." The recommendation is to enhance and improve quality of care for patients with acute coronary syndromes. This is accomplished by improving pre hospital ECG communication to the ED.

The paramedic transmits the ECG to the ED at that time the ED doctor interrupts the ECG and initiates the plan of care. The ED nurse team anticipates the need for this patient and begins to prepare for the patients arrival to decrease the ED time.

The ED staff works closely with our colleagues in EMS to provide quality care. Taking action to coordinate better processes with EMS to recognize STEMI on the pre hospital ECG's. "Time is Muscle" and it is important to reduce time to thrombolytic or cardiac intervention treatment.

Join us in to celebrate EMS week with a fun filled family oriented day at the Perryville Elk's Lodge parking lot Saturday, May 22, 2010 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Sponsored by: PCMH ED, PCAS, Air Evac Life Team

Free services provided: BP checks, car seat safety checks, and bicycle helmets, freebies for the kids, free hot dogs and drinks.

On display for viewing:

- Perryville Fire Department
- Perryville Police Department
- Perry County Sheriff's Department
- Mo State Highway Patrol
- Air Evac Helicopter
- CERT
- Perry County Ambulance