



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 19, 2023

Contact: Kim Y. Hylander
Senior Communications Analyst
Office: 703-792-6162
Cell: 571-722-8689
Email: khylander@pwcgov.org

“EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins”

EMS Week 2023
May 21st - 27th

National Emergency Medical Services Week, known as EMS Week, is a collaboration of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT), celebrates the contributions of Emergency Medical Services practitioners. This year's national event, May 21st - 27th, will celebrate its 49th annual EMS Week in honor and recognition of dedicated front-line heroes who provide day-to-day life-saving medical services in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

This year's theme is titled, “Where Emergency Care Begins,” is a reminder to the public that quality emergency care, provided by Emergency Medical Services professionals, dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury. Daily themes, created throughout EMS Week, were designed to involve the community during its annual campaign:

- Sunday, May 21: Health, Wellness and Resilience Day
- Monday, May 22: EMS Education Day
- Tuesday, May 23: Safety Day
- Wednesday, May 24: EMS for Children Day
- Thursday, May 25: Save-A-Life Day (*CPR & National Stop the Bleed Day*)
- Friday, May 26: EMS Recognition Day

According to NAEMT's [“What Is EMS?”](#), EMS responds to 42.6 million calls and treats and transports 30.9 million patients nationwide each year. Members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) indicates Virginians, like residents across the country, rely on EMS to respond to the call for help providing quality emergency services. Over the years, EMS has grown filling a gap by providing important out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine. From October 2018 through March 2020, Virginia responded to 1,564,080 EMS calls while treating, and transporting 1,082,830 patients. ([2020 National Emergency Medical Services Assessment](#)).

-more-

May 19, 2023

"EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins" - EMS Week 2023, May 21st – 27th

Page 2

During EMS Week, Virginia will recognize its 38,019 EMS providers and 580 agencies for their dedication and commitment to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the EMS system, and the life-saving efforts they provide daily. (vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-statistics/) The emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers.

In 2022, the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System, a combined system of career and volunteer personnel, responded to 45,507 EMS incidents requiring Advanced and Basic Life Support. Chief Thomas LaBelle states, "Every EMS call significantly impacts an individual's life, making a difference in their life. While administering care, learned through years of education and training, EMS professionals are creating new relationships as well as building upon older relationships that have required our services and care throughout the years. "Where Emergency Care Begins," emphasizes from the moment our first responders arrive on scene, they assess and respond accordingly to provide the best and immediate care for our patients, residents and visitors of Prince William County."

EMS Week recognizes, the honorable men and women, in emergency medical services, dedicated to delivering superb medical care to our communities nationwide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Take an opportunity, during EMS Week and throughout the year, to recognize the men and women comprised of the Prince William EMS community and the communities nationwide and say thanks to all those who have devoted extensively to this profession and our communities.

For more information visit National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians www.naemt.org, Virginia Department of Health www.vdh.virginia.gov, American College of Emergency Physicians acep.org/, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.nhtsa.gov.

During EMS Week, the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System will sponsor various activities planned throughout the week. For more information, please visit our Facebook facebook.com/PWCFireRescue and Twitter twitter.com/PWCFireRescue.

-end-