



Gary Padget,  
Southern Paramedic Service CEO

### ***A Message from Gary Padget Southern Paramedic Service CEO***

We find ourselves at a time when our Southern Paramedic Service employees and most Arkansas families are continuing to comply with national infection control guidelines for washing our hands, keeping our distance, wearing a mask and avoiding large crowds inside to stop the COVID-19 infection rate in our state. We are cautiously optimistic as some kids resume in-classroom learning and others struggle to learn over the Internet at home. Here at Southern Paramedic Service, we are preparing to address 9-1-1 patients' COVID-19 illnesses and/or the impact of typical Fall season influenzas, allergies, hunting accidents, storm related injuries, etc. We will diligently maintain our focus for rigid infection control practices and for providing our employees personal protective equipment to ensure, as much as possible, infection control for our employees, their families and all those we serve.

During the last six months, the American Ambulance Association, the National Association of EMTs and the National Association of EMS Managers have worked diligently and with moderate success to make sure both private and public EMS providers serving rural American communities receive the federal government's support during these challenging times. Although we do understand some individuals' hesitation to be seen at an emergency room, we have worked hard to educate everyone in Arkansas to not hesitate to call 9-1-1 and to receive emergency medical services early on in an incident. There have been some very disturbing statistics about those who wait too long to ask for EMS help. Cardiac issues, incidences of stroke, blood loss due to traumatic injuries and exacerbated respiratory conditions require immediate

care. Rest assured, ambulance personnel and emergency department staff members are taking extra care to ensure sanitary environments for all patients; not just for those infected with COVID-19.

Together we will prevail over the impact of the pandemic and see Arkansas' important work continue in every sector. The state's EMS providers will be there to respond to any emergency. In closing, I would just like to say "Thank you" to my great staff of paramedics and EMTs and our EMD dispatchers. I appreciate their selfless dedication. Also, a big "thank you" to everyone in the public we serve who are doing their part to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and who are working to prevent other illnesses and injuries through their safe behaviors.

## Educational/Industry News

### Southern Paramedic Service taught “Stop The Bleed” along with donating an AED and Medical Bag to Brown Grove Fire Department (Prairie County)

#### **Ryan Weems to Michael Drost:**

Thanks again for the class and all that you help us and many other departments out with. We couldn't do it without people like you and we greatly appreciate you and your efforts!



#### **Blake Chambers with Ryan Weems and 7 others:**

Brown Grove Fire Department took possession of our new fire truck tonight. Also, thanks to Michael Drost and the Southern Paramedic Team for the class and donation of our first responder medical bag with AED. We are very grateful.



#### **Jackie Holmes:**

Brown Grove Fire Department takes possession of their new fire truck tonight. Southern Paramedic donated a new AED and Michael Drost taught a class on stopping the bleeding. Attending class is chief Ryan Weems, Assistant Chief Blake Chambers, firemen Clint Honnoll, Lynn Holmes, Dillon Cook, Hunter Baxter, Kendall Cook, Eli Weems and Jackie Holmes. A special thanks to Southern Paramedic for their donation.

*Pictured far left (L to R): Michael Drost SPS Community Relations Manager, Ryan Weems Fire Chief and Blake Chambers Assistant Fire Chief.*



**Southern Paramedic Service presented Stop the Bleed and CPR/AED Classes for Biscoe Volunteer Fire Department.** Southern also donated a first aid bag filled with EMS supplies for the volunteers.

### Children's Hospital came to Stuttgart



Southern Paramedic Service recently presented the Handtevy System used by paramedics to safely treat children during a pediatric emergency. Lennox Industries purchased HandTEvy System bags, one for each of the three Stuttgart Fire Department stations and one for each of Southern's two ambulances stationed in Stuttgart. Pictured above is one of our Stuttgart crews along with the Stuttgart Fire Department and representatives from Arkansas Children's Hospital and Lennox.

# Happy and Safe Halloween!

## According to the CDC, Virus spread risk at holiday celebrations:

Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household poses low risk for spread. In-person gatherings pose varying levels of risk. Event organizers and attendees should consider the risk of virus spread based on event size and use of mitigation strategies, as outlined in the Considerations for Events and Gatherings. There are several factors that contribute to the risk of getting infected or infecting others with the virus that causes COVID-19 at a holiday celebration.

## In combination, these factors will create various amounts of risk, so it is important to consider them individually and together:

Community levels of COVID-19 – Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, as well as where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Family and friends should consider the number and rate of COVID-19 cases in their community and in the community where they plan to celebrate when considering whether to host or attend a holiday celebration. Information on the number of cases in an area can be found on the area's health department website.

The location of the gathering – Indoor gatherings generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings with poor ventilation pose more risk than those with good ventilation, such as those with open windows or doors.

The duration of the gathering – Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings.

The number of people at the gathering – Gatherings with more people pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people. CDC does not have a limit or recommend a specific number of attendees for gatherings. The size of a holiday gathering should be determined based on the ability to reduce or limit contact between attendees, the risk of spread between attendees, and state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

The locations attendees are traveling from – Gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees who live in the same area. Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, or where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.

The behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering – Gatherings with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than gatherings with attendees who are engaging in these preventative behaviors.



The behaviors of attendees during the gathering – Gatherings with more preventive measures in place, such as mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing, pose less risk than gatherings where fewer or no preventive measures are being implemented.

## According to Everyday Health there are ways to help prevent the spread of any infectious disease. For instance:

When passing out candy, “instead of keeping the candy in the house, place it outside so kids can pick it up without having a close interaction with you,” Arshad says.

Don't put it in a single bowl, though. “Kids' hands may be contaminated, so the next kid who reaches in could be at risk,” Arshad says. Instead, lay out candies on a table so kids touch only the ones they take, Dr. Shapiro says, or bundle a few small pieces into little bags they can grab.

## Or for something really inventive:

Create a Halloween parade. Each family will decorate a wagon with designs and battery-operated lights to become a little float. Any family can dress to a theme like wearing Peter Pan costumes, including Tinker Bell, This group could turn their “wagon” into a pirate ship, with music to match the theme.

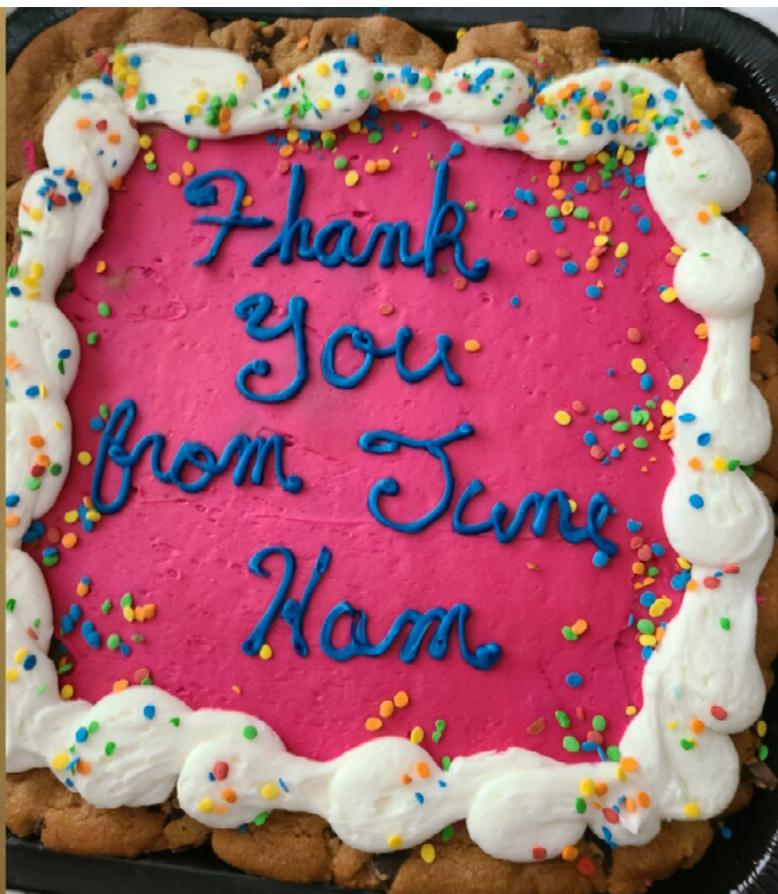
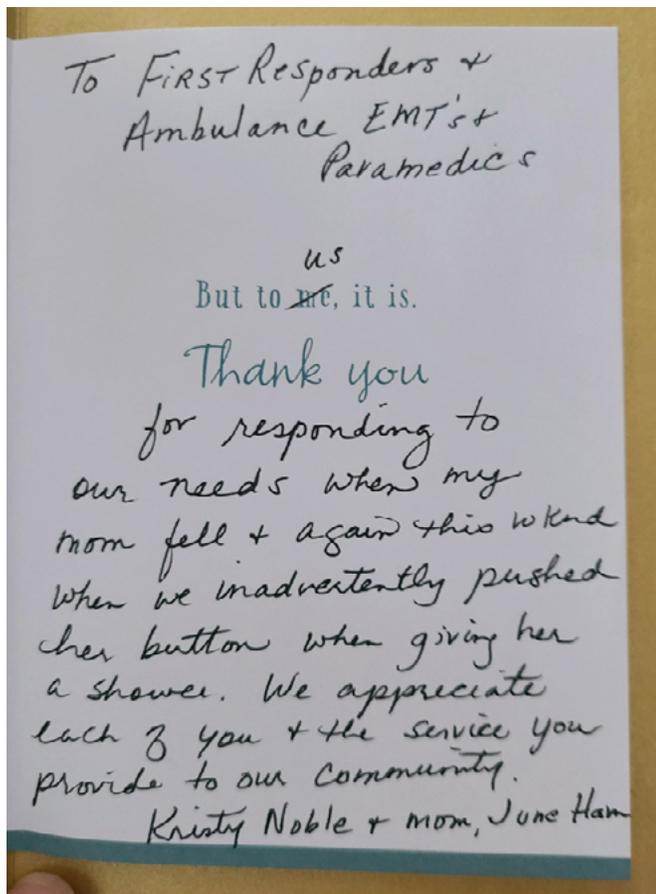
Families should keep their wagons at least six feet apart as they parade through the neighborhood. Spectators could be asked, via a flyer distributed beforehand, to place candy on tables easily reachable from the street.

“Halloween falls on a Saturday night with a full moon this year, so a parade will be especially great. It will be fun for the kids and also a bonding experience for the community.

## Way to Go SPS Team!

### Our crews continue to make us proud!

Check out some of the great feedback we received from our communities!



I received a call today from a patient that wants to send a "THANK YOU" out to Sicilia and Andrea. The patient said that she really appreciates all you did for her that afternoon and she also knows you risked your own life by coming out in the storm that afternoon. She said she could not thank you enough.

**Thank you for all that you do.**

Just wanted to give a positive review to Danny from the Green Forest location. I had to be taken to the Emergency Room about two months ago and they responded very quickly and took very good care of me the whole time until I got to the hospital and made sure I was all set!

Received a call this morning from Frank's wife and she said that she wanted to let us know that the crew - Courtney and Bethany - were amazing, her words. She wants to send a THANK YOU for the wonderful care her husband received.

**Thank you for your great work.**



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**Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.**