

# Southern Paramedic Service

October 2021



## Quarterly NEWS



### AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAMS DEPLOYED TO MISSOURI 7-23-21

#### Arkansas Ambulance Alliance Provides ALS Ambulances

The Arkansas Ambulance Alliance has responded to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request received from the State of Missouri. On Wednesday, June 21, 2021 the Arkansas Ambulance Association was notified of a potential request for assistance in neighboring Missouri.

That afternoon, a formal request for ten (10) paramedic Advanced Life Support ambulances was received by the State of Arkansas through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM). In coordination with ADEM, the Arkansas Ambulance Alliance was activated and the requested resources were assembled.

Arkansas Ambulance Alliance Strike Team 1 and Strike Team 2 staged in Rogers, Arkansas Wednesday evening and received the notice to proceed to Springfield, MO on Thursday afternoon. The team arrived in the area late evening and began meeting with area officials.

This morning, the teams were welcomed by Missouri Governor Michael L. Parson along with local emergency management officials and the administration from Cox Health and Mercy Health systems. As of this release, teams are actively working assignments and assisting in the public health emergency.

The EMAC response is a regional response for the Springfield (Greene County) area. The Arkansas Ambulance Alliance is providing support for the local EMS agencies, Cox Health, Mercy Health and other facilities across the region who are facing increased demands due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ambulance teams will assist with ground ambulance transports, triage and treatment and may assist in 911 responses as directed by local officials.

"As frontline EMS providers and members of the public safety net, the Arkansas Ambulance Alliance is here to assist our communities, our industry partners and our neighbors in times of crisis. We are honored to have received the call from Governor Parson and we are committed to helping in every way possible during these challenging times." commented Amanda Newton, Arkansas Ambulance Association President. "We will remain in the area as long as needed and will do our part in helping bring this crisis to an end," she continued.

#### About Arkansas Ambulance Alliance

The Arkansas Ambulance Alliance is made up of ambulance providers from across Arkansas working in concert with the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management and the Arkansas Ambulance Association. The agencies routinely provide mutual aid assistance within Arkansas and are experienced in responding to regional and national events often through FEMA. The ambulance strike teams deployed to Missouri include personnel from Columbia County Ambulance Service, Crittenden EMS, Pafford Medical Services, ProMed Ambulance, Riverside Ambulance Service and Southern Paramedic Services.

## Other area deployments

We have been sending crews to Kentucky to help with the Covid situation in their state. Also after Hurricane Ida hit in southern Louisiana we sent crews down there to help with transports and 911 calls.

Lauren Cunningham and Amber Lewis were one of the crews went on deployment September 3 through September 26. They traveled down to Gonzales, Louisiana and spent 4 days waiting to assist medical calls. The remaining 18 days were spent in Thibodaux, LA. They worked at a medical tent and provided care to civilians, military personnel, police, and fire fighters. They assisted with bandaging, traumas, fluid resuscitation and several other medical calls. It was the first deployment for both of them. They throughly enjoyed it and are ready to assist again when needed.



## Events we attended this Summer



# It's fall!

Even if you love summer best, fall is a fun season. Help make it a safe one! What should you look out for? Well, fall is a time for ...

## **Falling leaves**

Autumn leaves are beautiful – but removing them can be a lot of work! The American Chiropractic Association says homeowners should take care to prevent back injuries, neck strain and shoulder pain while cleaning up the yard.

When raking, use what the ACA calls a “scissors” stance: Keep your right foot forward and left foot back for a few minutes, then switch the positioning of your feet. When bending over, always bend at the knees – not the waist.

If burning leaf piles is part of your plan, keep in mind that the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't recommend it. “The open burning of leaves produces particulate matter and hydrocarbons, which contain a number of toxic, irritant and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds,” the EPA says. Plus, leaf burning is illegal in many places. Check your local ordinances.

## **Campfires and fire pits**

Fall weather and campfires just seem to go together. But with the fun comes responsibility. The National Fire Protection Association says fire pits and campfires should be at least 25 feet away from all structures and flammable objects.

What should you have on hand to stay safe? A trusty shovel and a hose that's ready to spray, or a bucket of water, are the preferred tools to quickly put out a fire. If water isn't available, have a small pile of sand or dirt next to your fire to extinguish it as needed.

When it's time to put out your fire, start with the bucket of water or hose – or shovels of sand and dirt – you already placed nearby. Then, use your shovel to separate the remaining wood and smoldering embers.

Next, stir the fire remnants around to make sure all embers are extinguished. Then, apply more water, dirt or sand. A fire shouldn't be allowed to burn out on its own – smoldering embers can reignite or spread and cause a larger fire.

## **Tailgate parties**

It's football season! Ready to cook up a winning tailgate? Following food safety practices is a must.

Keep the heat: Wrap hot casserole dishes in foil and transport them in insulated containers. If you're bringing hot takeout food, eat it within two hours of purchase.

Not too hot or cold: Remember two magic numbers when tailgating: 40 and 140. Potato salad, coleslaw and other cold foods should be kept at 40° F or less, while soups, grilled meats and other hot foods must be kept no cooler than 140° F.

Get cooking: Before you put your meat on the grill, check the Safe Minimum Internal Temperature Chart on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website. Color isn't a reliable way to tell if meat is fully cooked, so play it safe by using a meat thermometer.

Don't let food sit out too long: Perishable foods shouldn't sit out for more than two hours. When in doubt, throw it out.

## **Watching out for wildlife**

Autumn is mating season for deer, which means they're more active and a greater hazard on roads. Check out the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's tips to help avoid deer-vehicle collisions:

Be particularly cautious when driving at dusk or dawn, when deer are more active.

Pay attention to “deer crossing” signs. They're placed in certain spots for a reason.

If you see one deer crossing the road, know that others may follow, as they tend to travel in groups.

If a deer is ahead of you in the roadway, don't swerve. It could change direction – and move back in front of you – while you're switching lanes.

If you can't avoid a collision, slow down as much as possible, maintain a firm grip on your steering wheel and keep your vehicle straight.

## **Enjoying the harvest**

If you live in a metro area, chances are good you don't see many tractors, combine harvesters or other farm-equipment vehicles on the road. But they're a common sight in more rural areas, particularly during the fall harvest season, so it's important to take care when driving around these slow-moving vehicles. Here are some helpful tips:

Slow down when you see farm equipment on the road.

Farmers are aware that they're holding up traffic and will do their best to move out of your way so you can pass. But give them time.

If a piece of farm equipment that is wider than one lane is approaching you and you can't pass it safely, stop and pull off the road until it passes you.

Never assume that drivers of farm equipment know you're behind them.

## **Halloween fun**

The COVID-19 pandemic means Halloween may be a bit different again this year. But you can still have fun! First and foremost, follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest guidelines to help ensure your celebrations are safe. Then, talk with your neighbors about socially distanced options, such as decorating tables and placing them at the end of driveways so kids can grab candy themselves. And don't overlook traditional Halloween safety practices, including inspecting all treats when kids get home. Here are more tips from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons:

As an alternative to carving, consider painting pumpkins to eliminate the risk of cuts.

Costumes should be light and bright so kids are clearly visible. Trim costumes with reflective, glow-in-the-dark tape.

Make sure costumes are flame-resistant and fit properly. Costume masks shouldn't obstruct a child's vision – consider using makeup instead.

Talk with kids about using sidewalks rather than cutting across yards or driveways, and about obeying traffic signals.

Instruct kids to approach only well-lit homes. Both kids and parents should consider carrying flashlights.

Carry a cellphone while trick-or-treating in case of emergency.

## **Cooler weather**

It's sweatshirt season! When outdoor temperatures turn colder but you're not ready to turn on your home's heating system just yet, heating pads and electric blankets are good alternatives – if you use them cautiously. The Electrical Safety Foundation International says heating pads and electric blankets are the cause of about 500 fires each year. Help avoid a fire by following the ESFI's list of “don'ts”:

DON'T:

Use a heating pad and an electric blanket at the same time.

Use an electric blanket or pad that has a cracked, frayed or charred cord.

Put anything on top of a heating pad or an electric blanket, including other blankets or pets – you don't want the devices to overheat. The same goes for folding the blankets – don't do it.

Leave a heating pad or electric blanket turned on when you're out of the room or sleeping.

## **Winterizing your home**

It's not as fun as football, of course, but winterizing your home in the fall will help you be safe and warm indoors by the time the first flurry flies. So, let's get ready. Here's what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends:

Check – and, if needed, change – the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Call a professional to inspect and clean your chimney or flue.

Caulk and weather strip all doors and windows.

Clean out your home's gutters and repair any roof leaks.

Have your home heating system inspected.

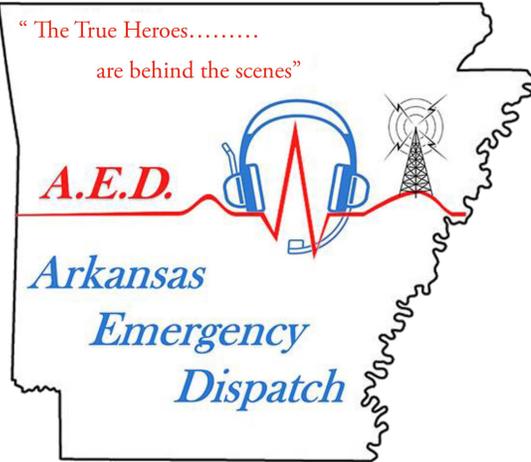
## Way to Go Arkansas Emergency Dispatch

Our Dispatchers continue to make us proud!

Here are the EMD/Dispatchers of the month:

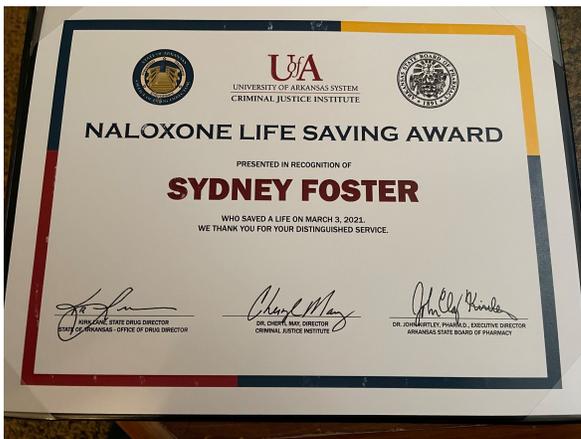


Kirstin Williams  
July EMD/Dispatcher of the Month



Amanda Stewart  
Aug and Sept EMD/Dispatcher of the Month

## Congratulations Sydney on your award!!!!



**Thank you from FB to Paramedic Melony Fallon in Wynne**

[BrianandJessica Hill to Melony Fallon](#)

Just wanted to say thank you so much for what you did for Josh. We were told at the hospital that if it weren't for your quick actions to intubate him and get him to the hospital that he would not have made it this far. I know your job is often thankless so I want to say from the bottom of my heart Thank you! You rock at this life saving stuff!

[Melony Fallon](#)

Awe thank you so much. I try my best but I can't take all the credit, my partner Carter, CCSO Justin Boyette and Wynne Fire Dept Gerald Britton worked just as hard. Thank you guys for all you do. I hear Josh is a fighter. We are praying for him. Keep me updated please. If any of you need anything don't hesitate to call. Thank you for this

[BrianandJessica Hill](#)

[Melony Fallon](#) Yes thank all involved for us! Bro Gerald had to come straight to our house after leaving from there. He just stopped and prayed for us. It was a crazy night/day! I will definitely keep updating! He is fighting for sure!



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Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.