

Southern Paramedic Service Wishes you a

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2019



Quarterly NEWS



A Message from Gary Padget, Southern Paramedic Service CEO

My wife Pam and I extend our sincere wishes that our employees and our state's first responders and their families enjoy a safe and memorable holiday season! We couldn't be more thankful for the superb performance our State's EMS teams contribute for Arkansas' residents *day in and day out*, all year long. And we appreciate our company EMS professionals' dedication to serving others oftentimes at the expense of missing their own family members' birthdays, weddings, graduations, Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners and other holidays. Not only do our employees miss out- their families miss them. That's why we also consider our EMS employees' family members part of our first responder community too.

I have recently heard some pretty discouraging statistics about the number of people interested in EMS careers. Arkansas is not exempt from the national shortage of paramedics and EMTs which is especially prevalent in rural areas. And, although we have always worked on making Southern Paramedic Service the kind of company I would personally want to work for, me and my management team are extra focused on employee wellness, job satisfaction and safety now and as we prepare for our future.

Holiday Driving Safety - To avoid hitting a deer

- 1. Be especially attentive during peak deer hours.** From sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions
- 2. Use extra caution when driving through deer-crossing zones.** Also be especially careful in places known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland.
- 3. Know that deer seldom run alone.** If you see one deer, others may be nearby.
- 4. Use high beam headlights** if driving at night, when there is no oncoming traffic. The higher light will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.
- 5. Slow down and blow your horn** with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- 6. Brake firmly but stay in your lane** when you notice a deer in or near your path. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.

- 7. Always wear your seat belt.** Most people injured in car-deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.

- 8. Do not rely on deer-detering devices.** Deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

- 9. If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal.** A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.

- 10. In the event a deer damages your car** contact your insurance agent or company representative to report the incident.



Contract Reinstatement

Eastern Carroll county contract will be signed on December 5 for a **three year renewal!**

New Narcan Policy

(From Eastern Carroll County EMS meeting minutes)

On Wednesday October 23rd, Director Cheryl May of the Criminal Justice Institute spoke during a chiefs' meeting about a grant that she received for distributing Narcan kits to all Fire, Police, EMS, and First Responders after they successfully attended an on-line training session and received medical director approval to carry the medication. According to May, Narcan can be administered without any complications. This is a kit that once expired or used would need to be replaced through the grant at a cost to the agency.

Recent Community Service Projects

Southern Paramedic Service donates two automatic external defibrillators for Mennonite EMS responders.



Letters of Commendation

Just wanted to share my opinion on some of your EMT Staff here in Green Forest Arkansas. Had to call 911 to get transported to the Hospital the EMS responded quickly and was treated with care the entire time. Good job to the green Forest team.

- Facebook message from Tyler Aaron Edwards

Gary,

Thanks for letting your crew decorate in support of Wear Pink for the Day. We happened to catch your crew in quarters and convinced them to take a picture with us.

Charles "Charlie" Gastineau, BSOM, CPM
Mayor, City of Ward



August 27, 2019

Dear Mr. Padget,

At 1:00 AM on August 22, 2019 I fell and had a wrist fracture and was not able to get up off the floor. My son called the ambulance and in good time they responded. Matthews and Alice entered and carefully got me to my feet and we were on our way to Springhill Hospital. Matthews did a good job caring for me and visiting. Once to the hospital, they did not leave until they were satisfied that I was being taken care of. You are fortunate to have these two caring employees.



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Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.