



SENECA COUNTY Emergency Medical Services



2015 Seneca County EMS Annual Report

2015 marked 36 years of continuous volunteer EMS service to the citizens of Seneca County. We have certainly come a long way from our meager beginnings in 1979.

2015 marked the completion of the goal set in 2013 of having 4 Joint Ambulance districts providing leadership at the local level to the volunteer EMTs in the villages and townships.

Two years ago, we began discussion of a three phase plan of improvement for Seneca County EMS. Recognition of the work that has been done over the past 35 years, discussion of plans to move into the future of EMS leadership and development through research, and modeling our system after successful systems already in place. And finally, implementation of those plans after development and careful consideration of all options had been weighed, discussed, voted on, and followed through.

We have certainly made good on those goals.

We successfully created the Attica, Venice, Reed, Joint ambulance district, the New Riegel, Big Springs, Seneca joint ambulance district, and finally; the Jackson, Liberty and Bettsville Joint Ambulance District. They successfully passed property tax levies in support of their districts to compensate the volunteer EMS personnel for their service to their communities.

Other districts have begun discussions for formation of districts, or solving their manpower problems through potential contracts with private entities.

Through a joint effort with the Seneca County Commissioner's Office, the Seneca County Prosecutors office, the Townships, Villages, both Cities, and Seneca County EMS we have successfully brought the situation of EMS manpower to the table and have had very good success in educating the leadership on what needs to be done and how.

The wheels are in motion to see the plan we implemented achieve the success we hope that it does.

Echo Unit Paramedic Response Program

The Echo Unit program has been very successful in providing advanced life support to our patients, support to our local volunteers, education, training, and inventory control and management.

The Echo program has developed into a "must have" on most responses in Seneca County.

The volunteer EMS responders depend on a reliable, professional, and calm paramedic to bring order to the chaos.

The Echo unit program provides a professional paramedic responder to assist the volunteer EMS personnel between the hours of 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

They also provide access to supplies, equipment, and inventory to the volunteer EMS personnel 12 hours a day every day. This allows for easy resupply during weekend hours that were ordinarily not available prior to the

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Echo unit. Many of the volunteer coordinators have said that this access to resupply is one of the most important benefits that the Echo provides to the county EMS units.

The Echo unit paramedic is a vital asset to the operations of Seneca County EMS. It would be beneficial to provide this service 24/7. In the future we will need to find a way to budget for a 24 hour operation of the Echo unit to provide this service all day, every day.

County Ambulances

Our fleet of 10 ambulances range from 1—21 years of age. All are in good operating order as of this writing. We currently do fleet maintenance with a variety of local vendors to ensure that each unit is maintained to strict operational standards. We replace wear items as needed, and try to keep everything running at the peak of its efficiency for as long as possible. Some of our oldest units are our best operating units. Due to the high maintenance standards that have long been the normal standards here at Seneca County EMS, our trucks remain serviceable long after what is normally considered a normal operational range.

Our current vehicle replacement schedule is to buy a new ambulance once every 3 years. Which means our oldest first run ambulance will be 21 years old when it is replaced. We have to be very meticulous with our maintenance to ensure an ambulance will last that long. The normal service life of an ambulance averages between 5-10 years in most services.

Attica/Venice/Reed Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 101 – Unit#930 – 2001 Ford E450 Ambulance

Bascom Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 201 – Unit#932 – 2005 Ford E450 Ambulance
Ambulance 202 – Unit#917- 1995 Ford E350 Ambulance

Bettsville/Liberty/Jackson Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 301 Unit#926 1999 Ford E450 Ambulance
(Due for replacement in 2017)

Bloomville EMS – Ambulance 401 – Unit#944 – 2008 GMC C4500 Ambulance

New Riegel/Big Springs/Seneca Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 501 Unit#938 2005 Ford E450

Republic EMS – Ambulance 601 – Unit#910 – 2008 GMC 4500 Ambulance

Green Springs EMS – Ambulance 701 – Unit#947 – 2014 International Ambulance

Backups – Ambulance #916 & #918 1994/95 Ford E350s

#916 is scheduled to be removed from service in 2017 and sold to the highest bidder.

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County EMS Response

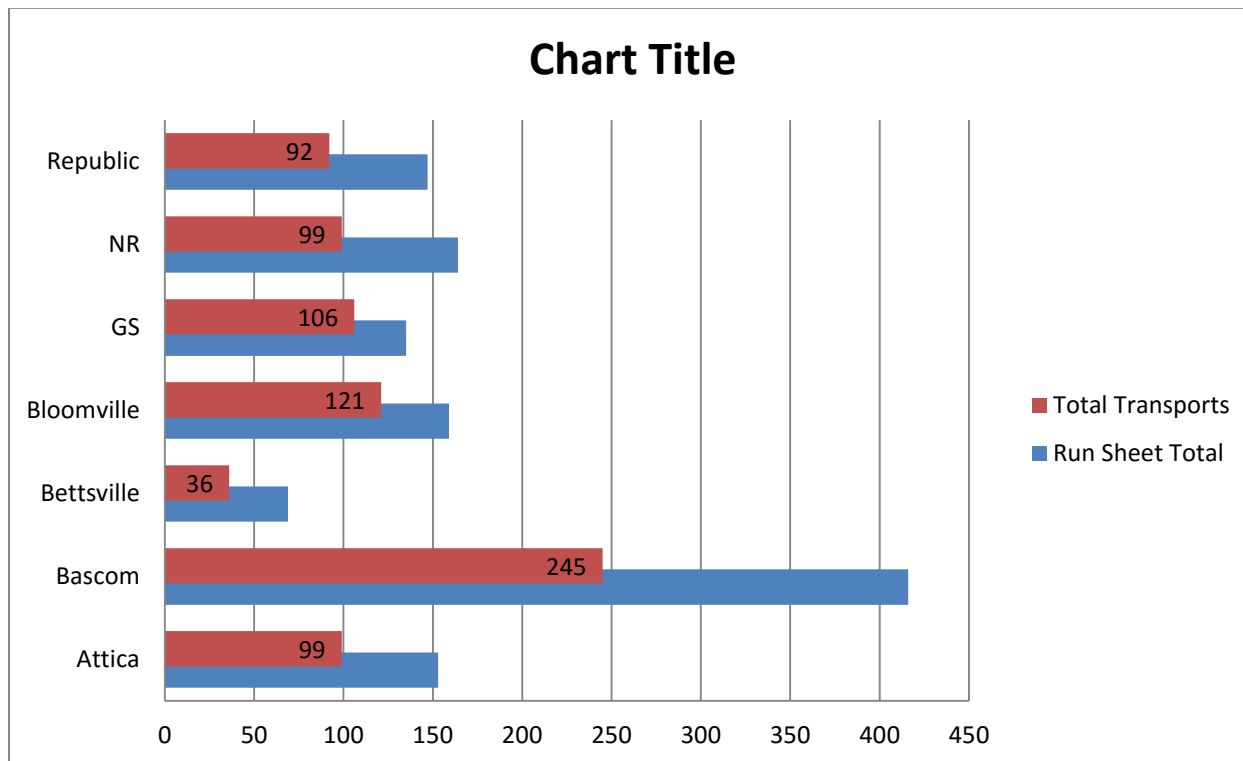
Seneca County EMS responded to 1264 total EMS calls for service in 2015.

We were called and did not transport a patient 462 times in 2015.

No Transport calls can be for a variety of reasons, sometimes another service transports the patient (i.e. Life Flight), or the patient just needs assistance but not transport, or the patient is DOA.

We flew 12 patients from the scene and had 18 DOAs through the year.

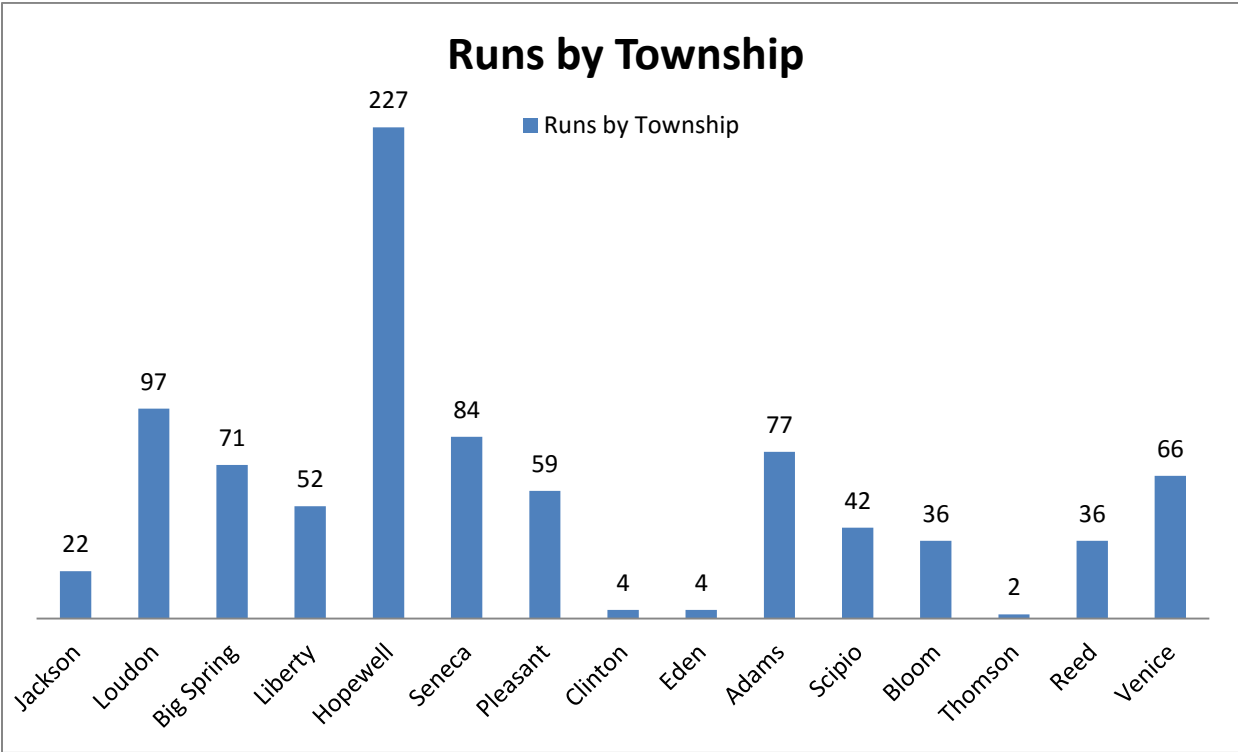
The following is a breakdown of where our runs originated and where we transported them.



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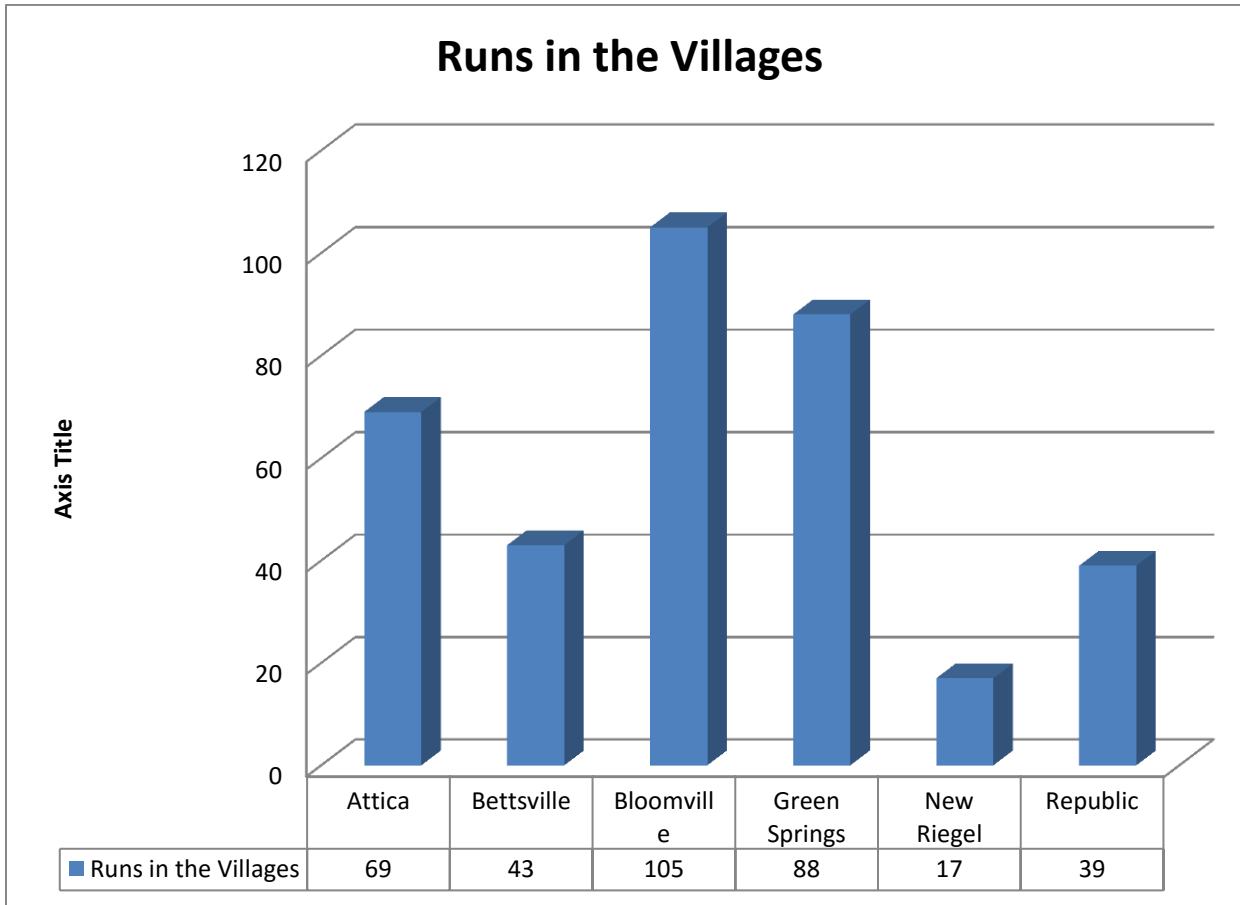
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Hospital Transports by Seneca County EMS Ambulances: 802 patients

Mercy Tiffin: 463 patients

Bellevue Hospital: 97 patients

Willard Mercy: 56 patients

Fostoria Community: 77 patients

Fremont Memorial: 74 patients

Bucyrus Community: 14 patients

Blanchard Valley (Findlay): 15 patients

Wyandot Community (Upper): 4 patients

Life Flight – 12 patients to a variety of hospitals.

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These patients were transported to these facilities by choice, or by physician order. If a patient is in critical condition and cannot make a choice the EMS crew transports to the closest, most appropriate hospital to the scene.

Bascom Joint Ambulance District is verifiably the busiest ambulance. Running 2 ambulances, staffed by compensated volunteers, that are uniformed, well organized, and well led.

The Bascom Joint ambulance board meets monthly to discuss scheduling, payroll, staffing, and personnel matters. The district has been in existence for almost 15 years, and is an example of how the Joint Ambulance district model can work to provide a shared service EMS system, in collaboration with Seneca County.

The formation of AVR Joint ambulance district, NBS Joint ambulance district, and JLB Joint ambulance district has shown an increase in active participation and has strengthened the community involvement in those areas.

Education:

A large part of what we do at Seneca County EMS involves the continuing education of the volunteer EMS personnel.

We have an enormous amount of continuing education provided by our own certified EMS instructors. Most of the classes are taught by the EMS director and are provided at each of the 7 EMS stations throughout the county.

We also provide EMT and Paramedic Refreshers in January through February of every year.

Each EMT requires 24 hours of Continuing Education per year to maintain their certification, and paramedics require almost twice that amount.

Our Medical Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick MD, is also the ER Director at Mercy Tiffin Hospital. Most of our education is directed by Dr. Fitzpatrick, based on what he is seeing come through his Emergency Department. Our physician medical director approves all of our education, and we do all of our own continuing education.

Seneca County EMS is an approved Continuing Education Site by the State Board of EMS. We achieved this credentialing in 2014. This allows us to do all of our own education without having to pay an outside institution to either provide it or approve it.

Having an EMS Director with the education and background to do this is an important cost saving measure to Seneca County EMS.

Our collaboration with Mercy Saint Vincent Trauma Center, Mercy Tiffin Hospital, and the State Board of EMS is important to maintain compliance in EMS. The education and training of pre-hospital personnel is complex, and highly specialized. We are fortunate to have formed relationships that benefit us in our ability to train our personnel locally and efficiently.

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Equipment:

Seneca County EMS provides all equipment, inventory, supplies, fuel, and vehicles for all 7 County squads. We provide some of the latest prehospital emergency medical equipment available to all of our crews. Budgeting for replacement of these items is also important and not all of our equipment is as new as it once was.

We invested heavily into our future with some fairly large equipment purchases in 2015.

We were a test launch site for a new CPR assist device known as the ResQCPR system to increase the survivability of cardiac arrest patients.

We have used the system several times during 2015 and have had good success with its use. We have no miracle stories to report as of this writing, but we are confident that this device is capable of providing good outcomes in the future.

We also purchased new cardiac monitor, defibrillator units that will allow us to transmit critical care patient data to the hospital while on scene or enroute to the hospital.

The importance of early identification and intervention for patients suffering from a catastrophic myocardial infarction (heart attack) is well documented in medical literature.

These new devices put us on the cutting edge of diagnosis, intervention, and will definitely make a difference in successful outcomes for the residents of our communities that require this type of medical care.

EMS Office Operations:

We have streamlined our office operations to a level never before seen in the history of Seneca County EMS. Our processes are running extremely efficiently and we have demonstrated improvement by having revenue that has surpassed any year on record.

The assistant director has created processes that are dependable, repeatable, and demonstrate an efficiency that is simple to follow and relatively easy to do.

With the addition of electronic medical record keeping software, and access to instant reports, we have created a system that should take us well into the future of EMS operations while maintaining compliance and the scalability to grow with our service.

Currently we are working with the Auditors office to input all of our payroll data, purchase orders, and vouchers into the new accounting software system. So far the transition has been smooth and fairly simple to learn. The new system has made the day to day office processes smoother and less paper-hungry.

We have been very busy training everyone in the system on the new emscharts.com documentation software, and setting up our new cardiac monitors. We will be collaborating with Buckeye IT, Philips IT, and Mercy IT and Mercy Tiffin Hospital to get everything set up and working. Our new monitors should be in service before February 1st.

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Summary:

2015 has been an extraordinary year for Seneca County EMS. We have seen the formation of an additional Joint Ambulance District, for a total of 4 Joint ambulance Districts in Seneca County.

We met our goals to form districts in most of the squad districts that needed them the most. We have created public awareness of the benefits of community based EMS comprised of compensated volunteers. The citizens of Seneca County are aware of what EMS is, who provides it, and how it is funded. The leadership at the County level, the township and village level, and the State know that we are working very hard to improve the service we provide to the public.

We have moved swiftly during the 2015 calendar year, to get things moving in a positive direction. The future for Seneca County EMS is bright, and we are looking forward to 2016 with new direction, drive, and an eagerness to improve our service.

The Echo unit program continues to be a model for others to follow, and we are very proud of the level of care that we provide to our community.

Seneca County EMS is a charter member and endorsed by the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association, and the Mercy Saint Vincent Trauma Program. We have begun a collaborative partnership with the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Wyandot, and Sandusky counties to provide Opiate Antidote kits to all first responding fire departments in Seneca County.

We are fortunate to have partners such as these prestigious groups of medical professionals to help guide us through the complex world of delivering excellent prehospital emergency medical care and transportation to the sick and injured.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Seneca County.

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