



SENECA COUNTY Emergency Medical Services



2016 Seneca County EMS Annual Report

2016 marked 37 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. 2016 ends with Seneca County EMS having 4 Joint Ambulance districts providing leadership and compensation at the local level to the compensated volunteer EMTs in the villages and townships. A 5th Joint Ambulance district is in the process of being finalized in Bloom/Scipio townships.

Three 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 37 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 having been weighed, discussed, voted on, and followed through.

We have certainly made good on those goals.

Losing our Green Springs squad was disheartening to a lot of our volunteer personnel who have put many years of their lives into the project. Sadly, it is hard to understand why the elected officials deemed it necessary to terminate such dedicated and devoted personnel who only asked to be paid a fraction of what the elected officials agreed upon for a private agency. However, since that dark day in June 2016, many of the dedicated personnel have taken the initiative to move on to one or more of the Joint Ambulance districts that see the future of Seneca County EMS as bright, and positive.

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.

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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 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.

The Echo unit will begin full time 24 hour a day, 7 day per week operation on January 7th, 2017.

The Seneca County EMS Echo unit has sparked a lot of interest state wide and we are seeing that many other services are also capitalizing on the use of a full time Paramedic level provider responding to emergencies to support the response of Basic Life Support Ambulances. Our neighbors to the North, South, and West are using an Echo type response vehicle to support their own operations. It is good to know that Seneca County EMS is leading the way in this response model.

County Ambulances

Our fleet of 10 ambulances range from 1—20 years of age.

Qualifying for the Local Government Safety Capital Grant through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services gave our service a huge boost in capital that allowed us to purchase 3 brand new State of the Art Ambulances with the latest and safest equipment available today.

All units are in service and performing up to our expectations. Each Joint ambulance district now is equipped with ambulances that are less than 3 years old, and have safety equipment integrated into the chassis of the vehicle.

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. 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. Due to having new ambulances across the fleet we will not need to buy a new ambulance for 3-5 years. This will afford us the opportunity to provide the latest in safety innovations to some of our older trucks through retrofitting Stryker Lift/Load cots and replacing our Echo unit and EMS administrative vehicles sooner.

The normal service life of an ambulance averages between 5-10 years in most services.

Attica/Venice/Reed Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 101 – Unit#948 – 2016 Ford E450 Ambulance

Bascom Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 201 – Unit#950 – 2016 Ford E450 Ambulance
Ambulance 202 – Unit#932- 2005 Ford E450 Ambulance

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Bettsville/Liberty/Jackson Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 301 Unit#947 2014 International Amb.

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

New Riegel/Big Springs/Seneca Joint Ambulance District – Ambulance 501 Unit#949 2016 Ford E450

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

Backups – Ambulance #938 – 2005 E450 Ambulance and #918 1996 Ford E350

Echo Unit – 2013 Chevy Tahoe

EMS Director Response Unit – 2008 Jeep Liberty

EMS Admin Vehicle – 2006 Ford Expedition

- Both EMS Directors car and Admin vehicle scheduled for replacement in 2017

County EMS Response

Seneca County EMS responded to 1329 total EMS calls for service in 2016.

We were called and did not transport a patient 613 times in 2016.

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 22 DOAs through the year.

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

Adams Twp – 18	Attica – 51	Bascom – 1	Bettsville – 49
Big Spring Twp – 79	Bloom Twp – 45	Bloomville- 75	Clinton Twp – 2
Eden Twp – 3	Fostoria – 14	Green Springs – 27	Hopewell Twp – 241
Jackson Twp – 22	Kansas – 4	Liberty Twp – 76	Loudon Twp – 134
McCutchenville – 2	New Riegel – 19	Pleasant Twp -25	Reed Twp – 59
Republic – 34	Richmond Twp (HuronCounty) – 1		Norwich Twp (Huron) – 4
Sandusky County – 4	Scipio Twp – 60	Seneca Twp – 72	Thompson Twp – 2
Tiffin – 1	Venice Twp -63		

Hospital Transports by Seneca County EMS Ambulances: 716 patients

Mercy Tiffin: 431 patients

Bellevue Hospital: 63 patients

Willard Mercy: 52 patients

Fostoria Community: 95 patients

Fremont Memorial: 35 patients

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Bucyrus Community: 24 patients
Blanchard Valley (Findlay): 11 patients
Wyandot Community (Upper): 5 patients
Life Flight – 12 patients to a variety of hospitals.

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 since 2001, 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 average response time for BJAD Squad 201/202 was 11.3 minutes.

NBS Joint Ambulance District has been extremely successful in the short 3 years since their formation. Scheduling and compensation has been going well. They have had their share of challenges when their Fiscal Officer, (a long time volunteer EMT) suffered a medical setback that rendered her unable to fulfill her duties. The district found a new fiscal officer and never missed a step. The district is successful due to the dedicated leadership of the local elected officials wanting to invest in their community, and the dedicated volunteers that have grown up serving their community. The EMS coordinator and assistant coordinator are both career medical professionals that lead from the front and set an incredible example to their young pre-hospital care technicians to follow. The average response time for NBS JAD in 2016 was 11.7 minutes.

AVR Joint ambulance district has also been very successful in their short tenure as a district. They were successful in renewing their levy of support from the community in Attica, Venice, and Reed Townships. The local elected officials are extremely focused on keeping their EMS local and utilizing the dedicated EMS professionals from within their community. The leadership team at AVR JAD are dedicated career medical professionals who set a great example of how a volunteer can find a career path within Seneca County EMS. The average response time for AVR JAD was 9.7 minutes.

JLB Joint ambulance district has met with some significant manpower struggles in their short time of being organized as an ambulance district. They do have several EMS personnel that made the transition from Green Springs but they struggled to remain in service 12 hours per day throughout the year. Bascom JAD covered their area admirably, and due to the structure of Seneca County EMS, no single squad being out of service hurts our response times, and the area is covered adequately. The elected officials of Jackson, Liberty and Bettsville, are working to find innovative ways to induce more personnel to join the ranks. Compensatory Pay is not

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always the key to motivation in this era of people being busier than ever. They may need to step up to a part time pay structure to find the necessary personnel to be more effective. The leadership is excellent with a career medical professional leading the way and doing his best to model successful behavior. Average Response time for JLB JAD Squad 301 is 12.6 minutes. They have some work to do to get down below the 12 minute national average.

Republic and Bloomville EMS are actively discussing forming a joint ambulance district after the New Year. The local elected officials from Scipio and Bloom townships have met several times, and are in agreement that keeping the squads local is their desire into the future. The squads themselves are holding on with many dedicated volunteer professional EMS personnel. They work together very well and keep the out of service times to a minimum. The leadership team for both squads are dedicated career EMS professionals that do an excellent job of keeping things organized and the squads ready to go at all times. Getting the local elected officials together and organized to lead the way into the future will keep these squads manned and dedicated to the community for many years to come.

The average response times for Republic and Bloomville are 11.4 minutes and 11.3 minutes respectively. These volunteers are true volunteers and have not yet become accustomed to compensation, it is encouraging that they are getting it done as well as they are. The future is bright for Republic and Bloomville, and the elected officials are sure to be proud of the success they will see.

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 6 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, who is an ER Doctor at Mercy Tiffin Hospital directs our education, 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.

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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.

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 were fortunate to receive a grant from the Ohio Department of Administrative services for over \$300,000 in 2016. These funds were earmarked for “Safety Improvements and Vehicles”.

Seneca County EMS allocated these funds to purchase 3 new ambulances with state of the art patient loading and securing devices. The Stryker Power Load system reduces the amount of lifting that the EMS personnel have to endure to load a patient into the ambulances. These systems are capable of lifting patients in excess of 750lbs and securing them in the centerline of the vehicle. They are crash tested to 25Gs and are the best, most effective means of safely securing a patient into an EMS vehicle.

Adding 3 brand new ambulances to our frontline fleet with state of art equipment purchased last year, equips our EMS personnel with the latest, most technologically advanced equipment available to pre-hospital care providers. This allows our personnel to focus all of their energy on safely and effectively managing the patients’ needs without worrying about not having the correct tools to do the most good for our patients.

All of our EMS providers are equipped with the latest technology for providing the best healthcare in the world for the patient at the location, and then safely and quickly transporting them to the hospital. ECG technology that allows the physician in the emergency department to see what the medic sees in real time utilizing WIFI technology through a secure connection to the internet. We also have the ability to infuse lifesaving and pain relieving medication through a multitude of devices including intravenous, intraosseous, and intranasal routes. Our CPR devices are proven effective giving victims of sudden cardiac arrest another chance at life, and all of our Fire/EMS vehicles in the county are equipped with Narcan Overdose kits to give our patients another chance at recovery.

Seneca County EMS is at the cutting edge of technology when it comes to pre-hospital medical care. Our people are top notch and are here to serve their community.

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 re-organized the entire Seneca County Emergency Services office to better serve the community.

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Summary:

2016 has been an extraordinary year for Seneca County EMS.

We received the largest grant in our history to upgrade our emergency vehicles and equipment.

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 2016 calendar year, to get things moving in a positive direction.

The future for Seneca County EMS is bright, and we are looking forward to 2017 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. Making it a full time service shows that we are committed to success, and will continue to provide the best pre-hospital medical care whenever, and wherever, we are needed.

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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