



# OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICES: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

## Mission Statement

To preserve life, improve health, and promote safety through clinically superior and compassionate pre-hospital care and life safety education for citizens and visitors of Leon County.

## Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

### Quality of Life

- Developed the Consolidated Dispatch Agency, in collaboration with the County Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Fire Department and Tallahassee Police Department, to provide a single point of contact for 9-1-1 answering and dispatch services.
- Provided emergency medical services, responding to 32,873 requests for EMS' assistance, resulting in 23,593 patient transports (up from 31,062 requests and 22,597 transports in FY 2011).

### Economy

- Approved a policy that waives that portion of EMS fees that uninsured or underinsured honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces are personally responsible for.
- Supported the development of an Honor Flight hub in the community, to take veterans to visit their national memorial in Washington, DC.
- Provided internships for 122 students from Tallahassee Community College and North Florida Community College.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-2100  
www.leoncountyfl.gov/lcems

## PRESERVING LIFE, IMPROVING HEALTH, PROMOTING SAFETY

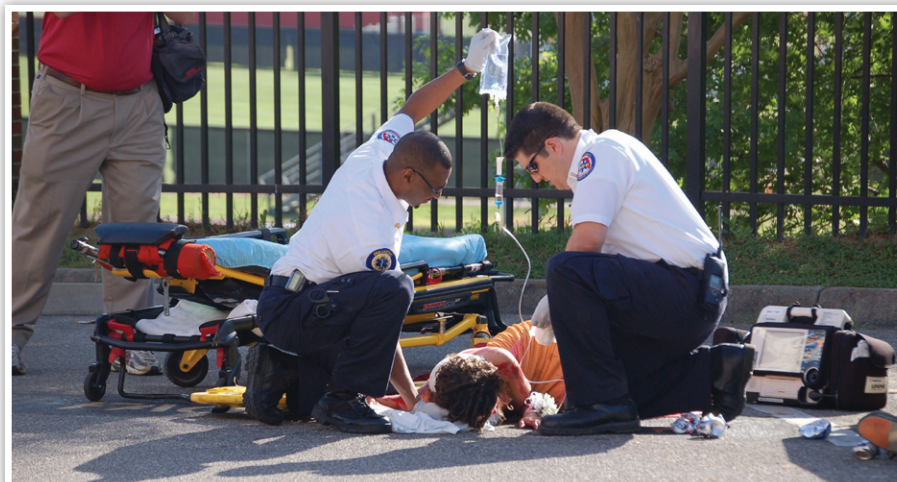
- Leon County is dedicated to developing strategies to improve medical outcomes and survival rates and to prevent injuries. The care of every heart attack, stroke and trauma patient, from the time 9-1-1 is called through hospital care, is reviewed by the Leon County EMS, in cooperation with the receiving hospital, to assure the highest quality of medical care is being provided. Information learned during this process is used to modify medical treatment protocols, identify new treatment procedures, improve patient movement, and direct training agendas. Additionally, to improve trauma care and decrease the effects of debilitating injuries, EMS works cooperatively with the trauma center in data collection and patient care improvement initiatives.
- With over 250,000 people dying from sudden cardiac arrest each year in the United States before they reach the hospital, Leon County strives to continuously improve the chances of survival by advocating for the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training through education and outreach activities as part of its Heart

Ready initiative. Through these efforts, over 2,000 citizens were trained in CPR and AED use and the number of public access AEDs in the community registered with the Division of EMS increased from 719 to 748.

- » **Press the Chest:** For the second year, EMS hosted "Press the Chest 2012", a community-wide CPR and AED training event held at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. The Division of EMS and community partners trained 362 citizens in CPR and AED use at one time.
- » **CPR Saturday:** To highlight the effects of sudden cardiac arrest, the County held "CPR Saturday" during American Heart Month, and trained 100 citizens in CPR and AED use in just three hours at the Governor's Square Mall.



CPR Saturday



Operation Prom Night

- » **Power to End Stroke:** Presented the Power to End Stroke seminars to over 300 citizens. This is a community stroke prevention and awareness program that targets the African-American community, a population at high risk for strokes.

- Leon County is committed to educating the community on the importance of safety preparedness. EMS hosted several events during the year, including:





» **Safety Fair:** EMS conducted the third annual safety fair during National EMS Week to highlight personal safety and injury prevention. This event was conducted in conjunction with the Leon County Animal Control, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Florida Highway Patrol, Capital Regional Medical Center, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee Fire Department, and the Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend.

» **Child Passengers Safety**

**Seat Program:** EMS conducted 15 car seat checkpoint events throughout Leon County, inspecting over 300 car seats and providing over 150 car seats to those residents in need of a proper child safety seat.

» **Leon Lifesaver:** Leon Lifesaver is a community risk reduction program that was presented at over thirty events focused on improving the safety of, and preventing injuries in, young school-aged children. As part of the Lifesaver Program, an interactive robotic ambulance named Leon, goes into schools and community events to teach children about the proper use of 9-1-1; the importance of car safety restraints and bicycle helmet use; and stranger danger.

- » **Operation Prom Night:** Operation Prom Night is a cooperative anti-drunk driving and anti-distracted driving program for high-school-aged teenagers where a mock accident scene is used to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving and distracted driving. This program is presented by EMS through the cooperation of community partners, including the schools, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, and the Tallahassee Fire Department.
- » **Senior Citizens:** The Division of EMS conducted 25 risk reduction events focused on the needs of senior citizens. These programs provided information on healthy living, fall prevention, and heart attack and stroke awareness.



**Did You Know**

Leon County EMS' Heart Ready initiative has improved cardiac arrest survival rates to a 33.6% return of spontaneous circulation upon arrival in the emergency room in cardiac arrest patients, which is 400 times better than the 7% national average. Much of this success is a result of citizen CPR and AED training, the addition of induced hypothermia treatments by paramedics, and a focus on improving cardiac arrest survival.



**Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service**



Chief Quillin was named the National EMS Executive of the Year in 2011 by the National EMS Management Association.

Captain Sally Davis won the Florida Department of Health Photograph of the Year award for her photograph (seen in center of page) of Sergeant Shane Weaver teaching a child CPR.

