

EMS Week Articles

Daily Times
Salisbury, Md.

MAY 17 1993

EMS Week to be observed

BALTIMORE — Emergency Medical Services Week will be celebrated May 23-29.

The national theme is "We're Ready-Are You?" Activities will be held throughout Maryland to educate the public about emergency medical care and how to access local emergency services; to recognize EMS providers for their service throughout the year; and to highlight ways to prevent injury.

At the statewide EMS Week awards reception on May 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, many Marylanders will be honored for their heroic, life-saving actions

or for distinguished service to the EMS community.

In Maryland, there are thousands of volunteer and career personnel who are part of the EMS Team, ranging from first responders, emergency medical technicians-ambulance (EMT-As), cardiac rescue technicians (CRTs), emergency medical tech-

nicians-paramedic (EMT-Ps), Med-Evac crews, communications dispatchers, to emergency room, trauma center, and rehabilitation nurses, physicians, and specialists.

Harford Post
Bel Air, Md.

MAY 19 1993

EMS Week Is May 23 - 29

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Daily Record
York, Pa.

MAY 21 1993

EMS week upcoming
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Capital
Annapolis, Md.

MAY 16 1993

Medical awareness

In celebration of Maryland's Emergency Medical Services Week, there will be an EMS Awareness Day from noon to 5 p.m. May 23 at City Dock. The event is free.

Featured will be equipment demonstrations, live simulations, displays and blood pressure screenings.

It is sponsored by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System and is hosted by the Annapolis Fire Department. The public is welcome to attend.

Carroll Co. Times
Westminster, Md.

MAY 22 1993

Emergency Medical Services celebrate

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Daily Banner
Cambridge, Md.

MAY 24 1993

Emergency Medical Services week observed

The week of May 23 to May 29 has been designated as National Emergency Medical Services Week — a week set aside to recognize and honor the men and women who provide these rescue and ambulance services to the public.

This year's theme is "We're Ready — Are You?" meaning that the EMS system is ready to respond, but do you know what to do if an emergency occurs at home or on the road, according to Robert Ross, chief of operations for Dorchester Emergency Medi-

cal Services Inc.

The EMS system acts as an extension of the hospital emergency department, providing life-saving or life-sustaining care to the critically ill or injured patient, Mr. Ross said. Dorchester EMS providers act as the eyes, ears and hands of the emergency department physician, assessing and stabilizing the patient before transport to the hospital, he explained. The information gained from this assessment is relayed to the emergency department via two-way radio.

The physician may then order additional measures to provide continuing care to the patient en route to the hospital.

Field providers are highly trained in emergency care, Mr. Ross said. In Maryland, emergency care providers are certified by the state at four levels. The most basic level of training within the Maryland EMS system is First Responder. This certification requires 40 hours of classroom instruction in Basic Life Support (BLS) skills.

The next level, Emergency Medical Technician—Ambulance (EMT-A), requires 110 hours of training, testing and field experience. EMT-As receive a higher level of training and are required to pass both written and practical examinations for state certification. EMT-As must also complete 24 hours of continuing education over a three year period to maintain their certification.

Cardiac Rescue Technicians receive 170 hours of training and are qualified to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS), which includes such procedures as IV therapy, EKG recognition and interpretation and drug therapy.

CRTs receive a combination of classroom and clinical training, spending many hours involved in direct patient care in the hospital setting, under the direct supervision of Registered Nurses and Physicians. CRTs must pass a state examination and are certified to practice by the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance. CRTs must complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their certification.

The highest level of pre-hospital care is offered by paramedics. Paramedics are certified both nationally and in the state in

which they practice. They receive approximately 400 hours of training above that of CRT, again spent both in the classroom and hospital settings. This training includes all areas of patient care for medical, environmental, psychological, obstetrical and trauma related emergencies. Paramedics must complete 72 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their certification.

"Dorchester EMS is proud of the men and women who make up its team," Mr. Ross said. There are 55 volunteer First Responders, EMT-As, CRTs and paramedics and seven full and part-time career EMT-As, CRTs and paramedics working 24 hours a day to provide Advanced Life Support to the Cambridge community. They are assisted on occasion by the members of Rescue Fire Company of whom many are certified First Responders and EMT-As.

Mr. Ross said, "The members of the EMS team are highly dedicated and motivated — they are people with a need to help others. Most of them volunteer their time and some pass up careers with more material rewards and they do this in order to attain the only reward that really matters to them ... the knowledge that they make a difference in someone's life."

Dorchester EMS will be throughout the community during the week, displaying their ambulances and equipment. The public is invited to come out and help celebrate at any of the following locations: May 23, Long Wharf - noon to 3 p.m.; May 24, Sunburst Center - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; May 26, Shear Sensations - 6 to 8 p.m.; May 28, Jamesway - 7 to 9 p.m.; May 29, Center Market - noon to 4 p.m.

Thank You!!!

**Frederick
County**

Emergency Medical Services

May 23-29, 1993

Emergency Physicians Associates

**Practicing at Frederick Memorial Hospital
salutes personnel of**

Junior ambulances	Graceham special unit
United ambulances	Brunswick ambulances
Middletown ambulances	Jefferson ambulance
Myersville ambulance	Wolfsville special unit
New Midway special unit	Lewistown special unit
Rocky Ridge special unit	Urbana ambulances
Carroll Manor ambulances	Walkersville ambulances
New Market ambulance	Green Valley ambulance
Woodsboro ambulance	Emmitsburg ambulances
★ Libertytown ambulances	Thurmont ambulances ★
★ Ft. Detrick special unit	Frederick Co. ALS ★
★ Maryland EMS Week ★	

Star Democrat
Easton, Md.

MAY 26 1993

Emergency Medical Services/ Week celebrated nationwide

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, a nationwide salute to the more than 500,000 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, 70,000 emergency nurses, 23,000 emergency physicians, and others who provide lifesaving emergency care, will be held, this week, May 23 - 29.

"This week in particular is a good time for families to review potential hazards in their homes and to practice child proofing and fire prevention techniques," says Sonya Crawford, R.N., CEN, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator at The Memorial Hospital at Easton.

The EMS theme, "Emergency Medical Services: We're Ready...Are You?", focuses on how important private citizens are to the EMS team. "The first

responder -- someone who calls for help and provides initial aid -- is usually a family member or bystander. That's why it is important for the public to have first aid skills such as CPR, and to know how and when to access the EMS system," Crawford adds.

"The Memorial Hospital joins me in thanking the hospital providers, fire department personnel and others who give countless volunteer hours to our Emergency Medical Services program.

They are truly lifesavers," concludes Crawford.

Anyone interested in training as a volunteer in the Emergency Medical Services may contact their local fire department or call Sonya Crawford at 822-1000, ext. 5554.

News & Farmer
Preston, Md.

MAY 26 1993

Caroline EMS Is Ready

By David M. Carrier,
NREMT-P

(Editor's Note: Mr. Carrier is the Special Projects Coordinator for Caroline County Advanced Life Support Services)

Emergency medical services (EMS) Week, a nationwide salute to more than 500,000 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, 70,000 emergency nurses, 23,000 emergency physicians, and others who provide lifesaving emergency care to our nation's residents every day of the year, is this week, through May 29th.

"Emergency Medical Services: We're Ready. Are You?" is the 1993 EMS Week theme. According to Caroline County Advance Life Support, this theme reflects the significant advances in emergency medical care in the 25 years since efforts began to establish emergency



medicine as a medical specialty.

Early leaders in the emergency medical care field recognized that highly trained personnel who could begin medical care as soon as possible were the key to reducing death and permanent disability. Volunteer and career emergency medical professionals have made a tremendous commitment to training. We want the public to know that we're ready for any medical emergency.

National EMS Week efforts also focus on public

education, because private citizens are an important part of the EMS "team". The first responder, someone who calls for help and provides initial aid, is usually a family member or bystander. That is why it's so important for the public to have first aid skills such as CPR, and know how and when to access the EMS System.

Coinciding with the Memorial Day holiday weekend, EMS Week promotions will kick off summer safety programs. Accidental deaths are more common during the months of June, July, and August than any other time of the year.

MAY 3 1993

Celebrating Emergency Medical Services Week in Maryland

By H. KEVIN KNUSSMAN

Maryland has the most effective Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System in the world. Maryland's citizens are serviced by sophisticated hospitals, state-of-the-art medevac helicopters, modern ambulances, an extensive communications system, and a statewide agency to coordinate EMS. However, the best equipped system in the world is nothing without the thousands of caring individuals who make the system function.

Ultimately, it is holding hands, the kind words, the soft smiles that comforts each patient. These acts easily become lost in the vast technology involved with modern emergency medicine. Emergency Medical Services is people helping people first and foremost!

Emergency medical personnel are armed with a vast array of equipment and drugs. However, this great complement of tools can never substitute for the kindness given by an individual health care provider.

Personnel must be able to function in vastly different environments, often under difficult or dangerous conditions. Training to perform effectively in such adverse conditions involves a broad spectrum of topics.

The EMS system continues to face many challenges in striving to provide the very best emergency medical treatment. One of the most pressing challenges for the Emergency Medical Service is supplying an adequate number of trained personnel.

There are many opportunities to

become involved in EMS. Career opportunities continue to expand in the area of health care, and particularly within EMS. Health care is often cited as an area where the number of job opportunities will be growing in the future.

Nursing is one example where a lack of trained personnel has resulted in many unfilled job positions. Nurses have expanded their career far beyond traditional boundaries and now include many specialties.

Volunteer opportunities exist everywhere. Most communities have a severe shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians, and other volunteers, to operate the ambulance or emergency medical service. The shortage of trained personnel within your community may be so critical that no one responds to an emergency call.

The future holds many exciting opportunities to help other human beings. New medical procedures and expanding knowledge will permit treatment never before thought possible. None of these advances are possible without someone trained and certified to provide emergency care.

Each resident of Maryland shares in the responsibilities for an effective EMS system, even if they do not directly provide emergency services. Everyone should know basic safety procedures, C.P.R. (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), and first aid. All Marylanders should know that 9-1-1 is the statewide emergency telephone access number. Practicing safety at home and work

can prevent an accident from ever happening. EMS Week, like Fire Prevention Week, is a great opportunity to teach a child some personal safety measures. As the saying goes, "Safety is no accident!"

Emergency Medical Services Week is dedicated to recognize those individuals who provide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Without dedicated people the system can not function. This week is also a golden opportunity for EMS personnel to nurture an interest about EMS among other members of the community.

Each person can have a positive impact in the community, by becoming directly involved in EMS, or by participating in improved safety efforts within in your home and community.

Maryland's Emergency Medical Services is here because of the interest, support, and funding of Maryland's citizens. Each person should become knowledgeable about the EMS system, learn how to prevent an emergency, and what to do if one happens! Where we go from here is up to you!

Maryland Emergency Medical Services Week is May 23-29. This year's theme is "We're Ready — Are You?" The focus is on educating the public about accident prevention, emergency first aid, and how to access local emergency services.

Kevin Knussman is an EMT-Paramedic and a frequent author of articles relating to emergency services. He lives in Easton.

Times
Crisfield, Md.

JUN 2 1993

EMS system acknowledged

The week of May 23-29 was been designated as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in Maryland.

This week focused on the EMS System and the people that make it work.

EMS in Somerset County begins with the 911 Communications Center which is staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week by highly trained personnel.

These individuals have the responsibility of answering the 911 calls for assistance, evaluating the situation, and dispatching the correct fire and ambulance personnel.

There are two ambulance companies in Somerset County: the Lower Somerset County Ambulance and Rescue Squad and the Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Department.

These two ambulance companies are assisted by the Marion Volunteer Fire Department, the Deal Island Volunteer Fire Department and the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department.

News
Frederick, Md.

Post
Frederick, Md.

JUN 3 1993

JUN 3 1993



EMS week

The Frederick County Commissioners recently proclaimed May 23-29 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Standing from left are, Commissioner Ronald Stoddergill; James Morgan, volunteer Emergency Medical Services committee chairman; and Dick Mettetal, MIEMSS Region II EMS administrator. Seated, Commissioners Bruce Reader, Sue Ann Yingling, Gail Bowerman and David Gray.

St. Mary's Today
California, Md.

MAY 4 1993

Poster Contest Recognizes EMS Week

LAPLATA. The Charles County Association of Emergency Medical Services will sponsor a poster contest for children aged 4-11 to celebrate Emergency Medical Services Week, May 23-29. The theme of the celebration will be "We're ready Are You?"

The poster must have illustrations of pictures, not words, to answer the question: "What would you do if you had a medical emergency?" All drawings must be the original work of the entrant.

Maximum size for the poster is 11 inches by 17 inches. There is no restriction on the type of paper that may be used, but poster board is preferred. The art work may be in pen, pencil, crayon, or other type of drawing medium. Judging will be in four age categories: 4-5, 5-7, 8-9, 10-11, with a winner from

each group. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Contestants must live in Charles County and include their name, age, address, and home phone number on the back of their entry.

Deadline for submission is May 20. Entries should be mailed to or dropped off at a fire dept. or rescue squad in the county.

Winners will be notified by phone to pick up their prizes on May 23 during a ceremony to kick off EMS week at the St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf. The winning posters will be on display that day at the mall and at the EMS display at the Charles County Fair in September. For more information, contact Charles Co., EMS Chief David Jenkins at (301) 274/4488

MAY 25 1993



Photo by Roxane Doster Watts

EMS Week

Joy Miller, ambulance captain for the St. Michaels Fire Department, shows LaTanya Holley how an oxygen mask fits while on a visit at the St. Michaels Elementary/Middle School on Monday during Emergency Medical Services Week.

MAY 26 1993

Volunteers give their best for all rescues — big and small

By Adam Welle
Whig Assistant Editor

It wasn't daring, but it was a rescue all the same.

Two weeks ago, at the controlled burning of a house outside Chesapeake City, firefighters saved the life of an abandoned 4-week-old.

After smoke and flames had engulfed much of the building, the infant was discovered in a second-floor window.

Rescuers acted quickly to bring the victim to safety. Once on the ground, it was surrounded by concerned firefighters and whisked to medical personnel at the scene.

The little fellow was a little singed and lethargic but conscious and alert. He was placed in weeds under a bush to recover.

This rescue didn't make the headlines because it was a 4-week-old raccoon.

While it's an amusing anecdote, it shows a side of these volunteers that isn't always

visible behind the 50-pounds of fire-resistant gear and soot-covered faces.

It was a study of contrast watching these hulking behemoths cradling a victim that weighed less than a pound.

Although they've been trained to handle the worst of disasters and have seen human victims draw their last breaths, there was still enough compassion left to save the life of a raccoon.

And to top it off, they volunteer to do it.

There is no blanket reason for joining a fire company. Some feel a civic duty. For others it's something their families have always done. Still others are trying to pass on the kindness offered to them when strangers showed up with an ambulance or fire engine.

Here are some random samples from Cecil County volunteers who explained why they joined their fire companies:

■ "To protect the commu-

LIGHTS & SIREN

ity. I just like to serve the community." — Mike Miller, fire lieutenant, North East.

■ "Curiosity and then the community service. I wanted to see what it would be like to fight a fire . . . to see if I could handle it. I'm in my 23rd year." — Joe Lough, volunteer ambulance captain in Charles-

town and professional firefighter at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

■ "Save lives." — Duane Lawson, firefighter, Elkton.

■ "My whole family's firefighter — my brother, father, two uncles. I just wanted to get out and help the community the best I could." — John Barr, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), Port Deposit.

■ "A sense of helping the

community, sense of doing a job not just anybody will do." — Gary Moore, chief, Rising Sun.

■ "It was just something I wanted to do. I wanted to help people." — Tim Warnock, firefighter, Perryville.

■ "To learn how to save people. To get the experience. The thrill of the heat." — Chris Fenimore, probationary (first year) firefighter, Cecilton.

■ "The joy of knowing I helped someone in a time of need." — Fred Hill, EMT/firefighter.

■ "My grandparents suffered for a very long time before they died. We had to call the ambulance several times. My grandfather went unconscious one time and I had to call 9-1-1. I was helpless. I didn't know what to do. I decided I was never going to let that happen again.

"I joined the fire company when I was 16 and became an EMT. I became a CRT (Cardiac Rescue Technician) when I was 19." — Mike Browne, NREMT-P, Chesapeake City. (Mike, 22, is one of the youngest NREMT-Ps (National Register of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedics).

This is by no means a scientific survey. It was done by calling the firehouses and asking whoever answered the phone why they joined the company. More often than not they didn't know right off the bat.

Perhaps the reasons are better reflected in the actions of the firefighters at the controlled burning.

Just as it was instinctive for that raccoon to try to escape the flames and smoke, it is instinctive for Cecil County's volunteers to respond — whether it is a 4-week-old raccoon or another human being.

In other news around the county:

EMS Week

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) week is being observed this week in appreciation for the work and services provided by over 250 volunteer and career First Responders, EMTs, CRTs and paramedics in Cecil County.

County EMS personnel responded to over 6,000 medical emergencies in 1992.

Training

EMS personnel with certifications that expire on June 30 who have not received required

recertification continuing education credit hours should contact the EMS office at 996-5350.

The EMS coordinator has the current MIEMSS (Maryland Emergency Medical Service Systems) CEU record available for review.

Equipment evaluation

On May 21, county medic units began field testing the "9-1-1 First Response Collar." It has undergone similar evaluations in other Maryland counties.

The hard one-piece cervical collar was developed by Technol, Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas.

The device may be adjusted for proper mid-line fit without complete removal after it is applied.

Evaluation reports will be reviewed for 30 days with a final report to the Cecil County EMS Committee and the EMS medical director in July.

Region IV EMS Council

The Region IV EMS Council held the annual election of officers May 11. Re-elected to one-year terms were: chairman, Frank Muller, Cecil County; vice-chairman, Robert Schoonover, Caroline County;

(See Rescue page C8)

Rescue —

(Continued from page C4)

secretary, Cathy Weber, R.N., Dorchester General.

The EMS Council is comprised of representatives from EMS agencies throughout the nine Eastern Shore counties. The council serves as an advisory body that reviews EMS activity within the region as mandated by legislature in conjunction with MIEMSS.

Station 2

Chesapeake City

■ Four Pro-Lite backboards were put into service on the company's ambulances. The polypropylene boards are concave and lighter than the flat wooden boards they replace.

The boards also maintain

buoyancy when applied easing water rescues.

■ Breakfast, Sunday, June 6, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the fire house, 215 Lock Street. Cost: \$4.50.

■ Family portraits are being offered, \$20 sitting fee includes 8X10 color print. Call 885-5951 or 885-2463 for ticket.

■ Circus, June 23, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Chesapeake City Elementary School. Tickets: \$4 in advance; \$6 adult or \$5 child at the door.

Station 5

Charlestown

Chicken barbecue, May 29, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the fire house. Includes ½ chicken, baked potato, roll, cole slaw and beverage.

Station 7,

Port Deposit

■ Tours of the firehouse are available. Call 378-4223.

■ Breakfast, June 6, at the fire house, 15 N. Main Street.

■ Fund-raising drive for medical services. Tax deductible donations can be made to: Water Witch Fire Company Emergency Medical Services, P.O. Box 324, Port Deposit, Md. 21904.

Amusement park event

Kings Dominion, Doswell, Va., is presenting Emergency Services Exhibition Days, June 12-20. Discount tickets to the park are available to emergency personnel. For coupons, contact fire station or call Kings Dominion at (804) 876-5561.

Daily Times
Salisbury, Md.

MAY 26 1993

BRACE YOURSELF



Times Photo by Autumn Winterbottom

Children from Tiny Tot in Salisbury got the chance to learn about ambulances inside and out recently. The program held during National EMS Week teaches safety and helps children to not be afraid of ambulances. From left to right are Jason Ward, 5, who watches as Tyler Walston, 5, gets a neck brace put on him by paramedic Frank Bailey of Willards, Kyle Livingston, 5, firefighter Mike Parker of Willards and Joshua Canopii, 5, who tries out a stethoscope.

Harford Sun
Bel Air, Md.

JUN 13 1993

Open House

On May 23, the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps held its annual Open House in celebration of Emergency Medical Services Week. We would like to thank the following business and individuals who contributed so generously to make this year's Open House a huge success. They are:

Merrill and Susan Dougherty and Chesapeake Rent-All; John Andrews and Andrews Garage; John Zaurba and Carl Maffie and the Coco-Cola Company of Havre de Grace; Uitz Potato Chips of Haverford, Pa.; Valerie Lloyds Studio Gallery; Rita Tarquini and Vigna's Restaurant; Melhiney's News Depot; Ray Hinchliffe and John Decker of Safeway Market; Esskay Meats; Mr. John Moser; Dr. Rhee and Dr. Jim of the Surgical Clinic and Key Federal Savings Bank

for the use of their parking lots; the Record newspaper; the Hirsch Eye Group; DPC Walman of the Harford County sheriff's office; PFC Mumpower and PFC Williams of the Havre de Grace Police Department; Sergeant Schilling of the Maryland State Police Bel Air barracks; Sergeant McCargo of Annapolis police; Frank Leedy and Harford Memorial Hospital; Harford County Emergency Operations and 911 Center and "Buddy"; Harford County Fire and

Ambulance Association's Fire Prevention Experiment; the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services; Friendly Oil Company; City Pharmacy and Kevin Kirby of Richardson and Associates.

We would also like to thank all of the citizens who came by....

Mark C. Hemler
Havre de Grace

The writer was coordinator of the 1993 Open House of the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps Inc.

Capital
Annapolis, Md.

MAY 2 21993

County firefighters to be honored for lifesaving efforts

By MARY P. FELTER
Community News Editor

For their courage, knowledge, teamwork and taking personal risks, six Anne Arundel County firefighters will be honored Thursday in Baltimore.

Firefighter Barton D. Shortall, Lt. James D. Kruger, Capt. Gary Sheckells, Deputy Chief Charles "Gary" Rogers, Firefighter Deborah Rodey and Acting Lt. Michele Delalla will receive certificates of honor at the Shock-Trauma Center at University Hospital.

Lt. Kruger and Firefighter Shortall responded to a stabbing at the Maryland House of Corrections in Jessup on July 10, 1992. The first to arrive at the scene, they provided advanced life-support care to two stabbing victims. One was in trauma arrest; the second had been stabbed in the chest.

Working in restricted "lockdown" conditions at the prison, the two were able to provide appropriate care and rapid transport of the prisoners.

On May 16, 1992, Capt. Sheckells, Deputy Chief Rogers, Firefighter Rodey and Lt. Delalla were participating in a whitewater raft trip while off-duty on the Cheat River near Albright, W. Va.

During the trip, a woman in another rafting group fell into the river and was trapped underwater for about 20 minutes. As her body was being recovered by a kayaker, the Anne Arundel firefighters beached their raft and went to the aid of the rafter.

Lt. Delalla began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the woman, who was in cardiac arrest. The group, along with a registered nurse and two others on

The ceremony is being held as part of Emergency Medical Services Week, established to recognize emergency medical personnel in the state.

the rafting trip, administered CPR for an hour before a helicopter arrived from Pittsburgh.

Besides helping to secure the patient on a backboard, Firefighter Rodey calmed members of another raft group who had just themselves been ejected from their craft into the river.

The accident occurred in a deep river gorge, so that removing the woman by raft was too dangerous.

Acting Lt. Delalla directed the helicopter to a landing site within 50 feet of the rescuers. Despite their efforts, the woman later died.

The ceremony is being held as part of Emergency Medical Services Week, established to recognize emergency medical personnel in the state.

EMS Day in Annapolis will be tomorrow from noon to 5 p.m. at City Dock. Throughout the day, there will be demonstrations of search and rescue, trauma and cardiac resuscitations and underwater rescue.

Emergency vehicles will be displayed, as well as exhibits on rescue activities and trauma prevention.

Messenger
Pocomoke, Md.

MAY 26 1993

(Troopers honored for rescue in Chesapeake

Trooper First Class Boyd A. Glessner and Trooper Bruce E. Cheeseman, both with the Maryland State Aviation Division in Salisbury, will receive Emergency Medical Services Certificates of Honor for their rescue of two missing duck hunters on the Eastern Shore.

They will receive their awards at a reception to be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 27 at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Auditorium in Baltimore. Thirty-five Marylanders throughout the state will be honored at that time for their extraordinary efforts in delivering prehospital emergency care or improving Maryland's system of emergency medical care.

The statewide awards reception is one of the activities scheduled during Maryland EMS Week (May 23-29), and ties in with the theme "We're Ready—Are You?"

TFC Glessner and Trooper

Cheeseman were called in on the search for the two hunters and dispatched to Janes Island in Somerset County shortly after midnight.

The hunters had been missing for almost eight hours; the temperature was 18 degrees with a 20 knot wind.

After the crew on the Department of Natural Resources' patrol boat heard gunshots coming from the north end of Janes Island, TFC Glessner and Trooper Cheeseman were able to locate the missing hunters, who were stuck in a swamp, approximately 30 yards from shore. The Med-Evac crew determined that a hoist rescue was necessary to extricate the victims. Despite the adverse conditions, the rescue took only eight minutes, and the hunters were flown to a hospital and treated for hypothermia.

For a complete listing of statewide awards, call 410-706-3248.

Times News
Cumberland, Md.

MAY 2 6 1993

Rescue squad makes time to save lives

Volunteers give ultimate gift

(Editor's Note: This week is Emergency Medical Services Week. In observance of EMS Week, the Times-News will explore the workings of Frostburg Area Ambulance in a series of articles).

JOHN D. SMITH

Times-News Staff Writer
First in a three-part series

FROSTBURG — The Friday night crew at Frostburg Area Ambulance is sitting around the table eating Chinese food. The mood is upbeat, even though at a moment's notice they may be pressed into action to save a life.

This dedicated group of professionals are volunteers. Most work full-time jobs or at-



tend school. The time they give is time away from family and friends, and they don't receive a dime for it.

Last year squad members ran 920 calls, the most of any volunteer unit in Allegany County.

Frostburg Area Ambulance was organized in 1975, and assumed quarters in the city's former jail on Water Street. They currently boast a membership of 79 dispatchers, drivers, emergency medical technicians, cardiac rescue technicians and paramedics.

To keep the squad going requires money. Most is derived from an annual subscription drive.

"Even though we're volunteers, we're still a business, a non-profit business," explains Jim Koon, FAA president and a cardiac rescue technician.

The squad must maintain two 1991 ambulance units and pro-

Rescue squad

(Continued from 1A)

Koon cites a lack of manpower, especially during daytime hours, as the biggest problem facing his squad.

"Everyone works and few work in the city of Frostburg," says Koon, a Braddock Middle School teacher.

Frostburg Area Ambulance is unique in the fact that it has the university to draw its members. Nearly 20 percent of current squad members are college students.

Each ambulance run usually requires an hour to an hour-and-a-half, especially if a patient is transported to a Cumberland hospital. For the first quarter of this year, members have spent 883 hours on board an ambulance.

FAA, on average, misses about 10 percent of its calls.

This falls in the norm for squads in the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services System Region I, which is comprised of Allegany and Garrett counties. "We don't like to miss calls. Every call could mean somebody's life," says Koon.

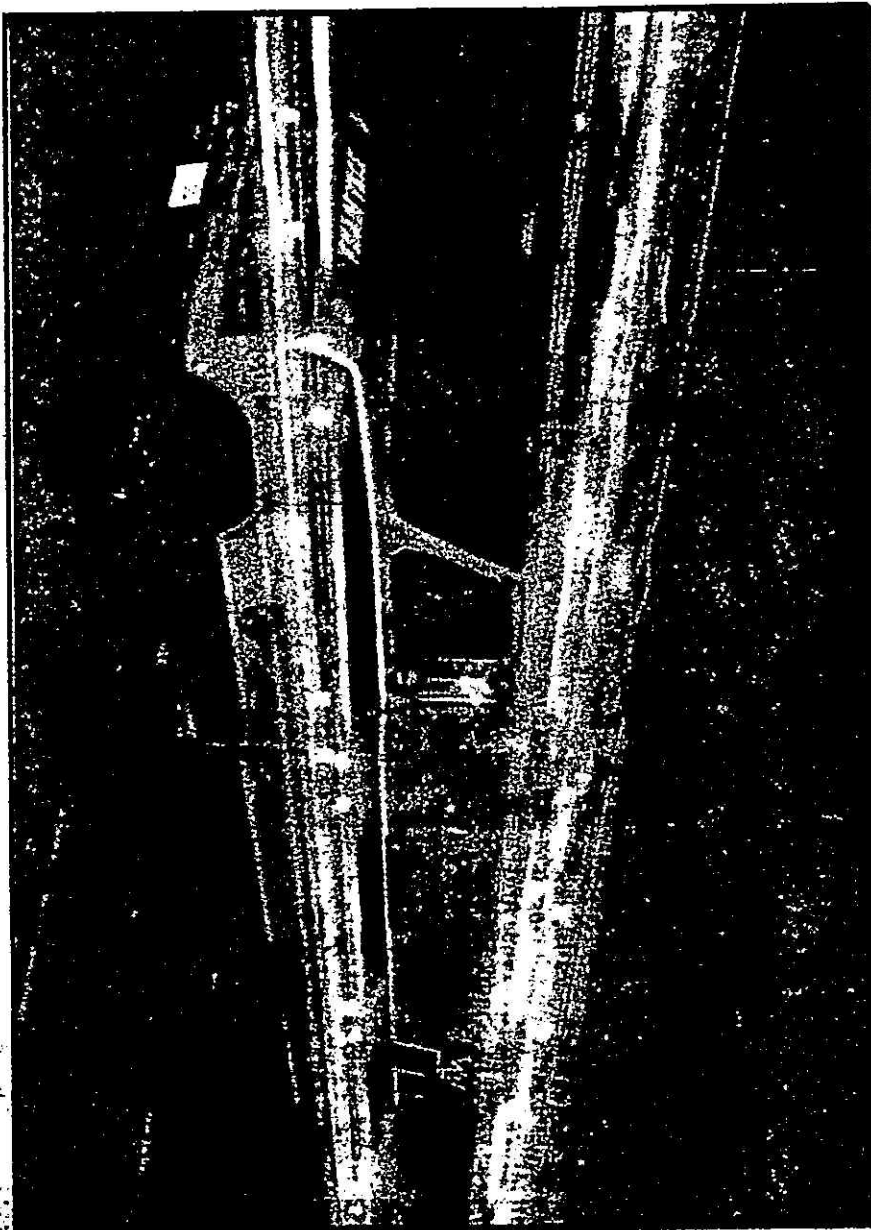
If an ambulance fails to hit the streets within six minutes, the next closest mutual aid company is dispatched.

Frostburg Area Ambulance requires its members to spend three hours a week at the squad. Most give more of their time.

"All our people do a tremendous job and have committed a lot of time over the years. But we're always in need of more help, especially during the day," says Koon.

Members do not have to be from the Frostburg area to volunteer. For information on becoming a member, contact the squad at 689-3356.

Next: meet some of the patients who have been helped by members of Frostburg Area Ambulance.



Frostburg Area Ambulance was the busiest of first quarter of 1993, FAA members spent any volunteer rescue squad in Allegany nearly 900 hours aboard an ambulance providing County last year, logging 920 calls. For the viding patient care.

vide upkeep on their building.

"In 1993, our operating budget is \$42,000. That is the cost to put the ambulance on the street on a day-to-day basis. It doesn't include equipment.

We pay for oxygen and other medical supplies," says Koon, who has been a squad member for the past three years.

Half of FAA's funding comes from its subscription drive with

the rest derived from state, county funding and various fund-raisers held throughout the year.

See—Rescue squad—3A

Times-News/John D. Smith

MAY 26 1993

Heroes honored for deeds

Spies saved choking child; Bryan helped grandfather

By MARLO BARNHART
Staff Writer

"We're Ready — Are You?" is the theme of this year's Emergency Medical Services Week currently in observance in Maryland.

And two Washington County residents who were "ready" will be among those honored in ceremonies Thursday.

A statewide EMS week awards reception is planned for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. EMS week runs through Saturday.

Eleven-year-old Chad Bryan and Paramedic Randy Spies will receive certificates of honor for taking lifesaving actions.

Young Chad saw his grandfather experience a seizure and lose consciousness on Dec. 19, 1992. He dialed 911 and was able to calmly describe the situation so help could be sent.

Spies responded on an emergency call for a 23-month-old child who was choking and couldn't breathe. After removing part of the food blocking her airway, he took her to Washington County Hospital.

Also being recognized Thursday for his 30 years of service to EMS is James Morgan, a career firefighter in Frederick County and one of the first EMTs in the state.

Currently he is chairman of the Frederick County EMS committee, a post he's held for six years.

Throughout the state, activities will center around preventing injuries, how to access local emergency services and to recognize EMS providers for their service day after day.

In Maryland, there are thousands of volunteer and career personnel who are part of the EMS team, ranging from first responders, EMTs, cardiorescue technicians (CRTs), paramedics, medevac crews, communication dispatchers, to emergency room, trauma center and rehabilitation nurses, physicians and specialists.

All Washington County ambulance companies will have representatives stationed at the Valley Mall Friday and Saturday with educational exhibits and information designed to attract new members.

In fact, a countywide membership drive is under way and potential volunteers are being asked to check with the ambulance companies in their area to find out what requirements are involved.

The reason for this push is to keep financially-stretched companies from having to

hire paid personnel in order to man their stations adequately to provide service to the citizens in their running areas.

For more information on training programs call Dick Mettetal, administrator of the Region II EMS office, at 791-2366.

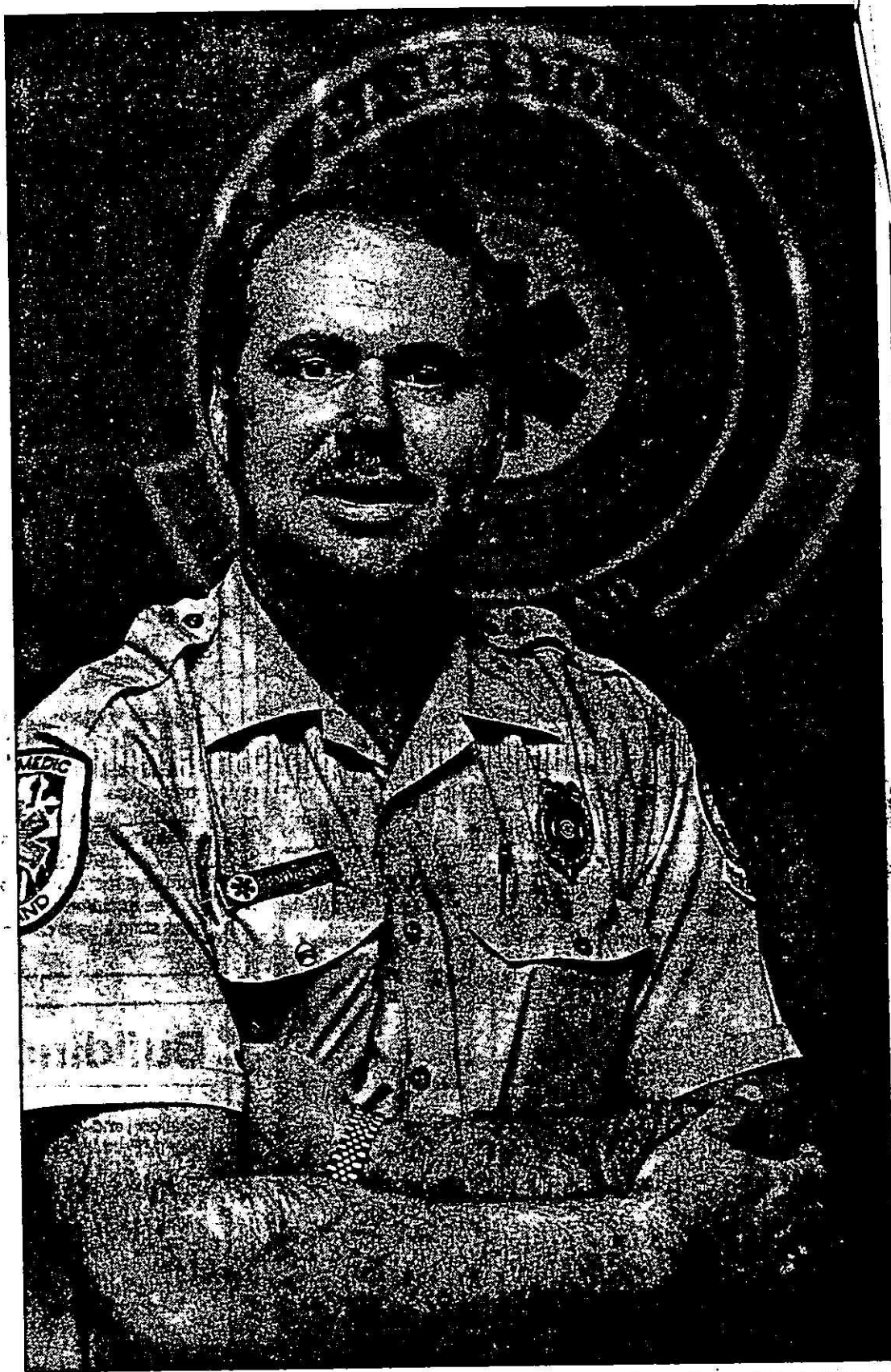
Dr. Richard Alcorta, statewide EMS director, is urging Marylanders to exercise caution during summer activities where most injuries occur.

Boating and swimming emergencies rise

significantly as the weather gets warmer, Alcorta said. And an increasing problem with alcohol use during such activities makes the possibility of injury or death even greater.

The risk of spinal cord injuries also increases in the summer as swimmers dive into shallow or unknown waters before determining depth.

Alcorta also stresses the use of 911 to speed help to injured persons throughout the state.



By Kevin G. Gilbert

Paramedic Randy Spies is one of two county residents honored during EMS week.

Maryland Gazette
Glen Burnie, Md.

MAY 26 1993

Firefighters honored for lifesaving efforts

By MARY P. FELTER
Staff Writer

For their courage, knowledge, team work and taking personal risks, six Anne Arundel County Fire Department personnel will receive certificates of honor at ceremonies May 27 at the Shock Trauma Center of University Hospital in Baltimore.

Receiving certificates will be Firefighter Barton D. Shortall, Lt. James D. Fruger, Capt. J. Gary Sheekells, Deputy Chief Charles "Gary" Rogers, Firefighter Deborah Rodey and Acting Lt. Michele Delalla.

Lt. Kruger and Firefighter Shortall responded to a stabbing at the Maryland House of Corrections in Jessup on July 10, 1992. The first to arrive at the scene, they provided advanced life support care to two trauma patients inflicted with stab wounds. One was in trauma arrest, the second had been stabbed in the chest.

Working in restricted "lockdown" conditions at the prison, the two were able to provide appropriate

care and rapid transport of the inmates.

On May 16, 1992, off-duty members of the fire department, Capt. Sheekells, Deputy Chief Rogers, Firefighter Rodey and Act. Lt. Delalla, who is a firefighter/paramedic, were participating in a white water raft trip on the Cheat River near Alsbright, W. Va.

During the course of the trip, a woman in another rafting group fell into the river and was trapped below the water surface for about 20 minutes. As her body was being recovered by a kayaker, the Fire Department personnel beached their craft and went to the aid of the rafter.

Acting Lt. Delalla began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the woman who was in cardiac arrest. The group along with a registered nurse and two others on the rafting trip administered CPR for an hour before a Life Flight Helicopter arrived from Pittsburgh.

Besides helping to secure the patient on a backboard, Firefighter

Rodey calmed members of another raft group who had just themselves been ejected from their craft into the river.

The accident occurred in a deep river gorge, so that removing the patient by raft was too dangerous to attempt. Acting Lt. Delalla directed the helicopter to a landing site within 50 feet of the rescuers. Although receiving such care and flown to the hospital, the patient did not survive.

The ceremony is being held as part of Emergency Medical Services Week, May 23-29, established to recognize emergency medical personnel in the state. Last year more than 450,000 emergency ambulance calls and 4,200 Med-Evac missions occurred.

EMS Day in Annapolis will be May 23 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Annapolis City Dock. Throughout the day, there will be demonstrations of search and rescue, trauma and cardiac resuscitations and underwater rescue.

Emergency vehicles will be displayed as well as exhibits on rescue activities and trauma prevention.

Mo. Co. Sentinel
Rockville, Md.

MAY 27 1993

Six firefighters to receive awards at EMS reception

Five-year-old Ryan Kane and FF/Rescuer II Jonas Rudzki, both of Montgomery County, will receive Certificates of Honor for their quick actions in life-threatening situations. Four members of Prince George's County Fire Department will also receive Certificates of Honor for their successful resuscitation of a newborn infant.

They will receive their awards at a reception to be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 27 at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Auditorium in Baltimore. Thirty-five Marylanders throughout the state will be honored at that time for their extraordinary efforts in delivering pre-hospital emergency care or improving Maryland's system of emergency medical care.

The statewide awards reception is one of the activities scheduled during Maryland EMS Week (May 23-29), and ties in with the theme, "We're Ready... Are You?"

On February 23, finding his semi-conscious mother suffering from insulin shock and lying on the floor, five-year-old Ryan Kane remained calm and dialed 911 to get emergency medical help for his mother.

Last August while en route to his home, FF/Rescuer Rudzki, who is an emergency medical technician, saw a car that had crashed and discovered a fellow fire fighter who was severely injured. After directing passersby to call for help, he proceeded to ensure that the patient was breathing and continued to assist when medics arrived and accompanied the patient to the hospital.

Pr. Geo. Jnl.
Lanham, Md.

MAY 2 81993

4 county lifesavers among state honorees

By WILLIAM POWELL
Special to the Journal

Four members of the county Fire Department were among 35 emergency workers from across the state honored yesterday by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services for taking decisive action during life-threatening situations.

Firefighters Devon Newsome and Tyrone Bristol and paramedics Sherrie Bibb and Paul Thorne received certificates of honor for their role in the resuscitation of a premature infant wedged in the commode of a Forest Heights home last June.

The awards ceremony was held yesterday at the University of Maryland Baltimore County before an audience of about 150 well-wishers as part of Maryland Emergency Medical Service Week, which ends tomorrow.

"This is a celebration of life," said Dr. Richard L. Alcorta, acting director of the institute. "[Emergency workers] are trying to prevent that devastating event."

Master of ceremonies Rich Adams of WUSA-TV (Channel 9) called the award recipients "the best America has to offer."

The four county recipients were honored for saving a baby that had been stuck for about 20 minutes in the hole of a commode June 10, 1992. Police said the baby's mother had delivered prematurely and tried to flush the child down the toilet.

Bristol and Newsome, who responded to a call from relatives of the mother, were able to extricate the baby and take it to a medic unit, where Bibb and Thorne began life support measures. By the time they arrived at Greater Southeast Community Hospital, the baby had a strong pulse and was breathing on its own.

Other local honorees included civilian Ryan Kane, a 5-year-old Bethesda boy who dialed 911 to save his diabetic mother after she lost consciousness; and Montgomery County paramedic Jonas Rudzki, who administered care to a firefighter seriously injured in a car crash Rudzki saw while driving home.

A.A. Sun
Pasadena, Md.

MAY 28 1993

6 Fire Department workers awarded for heroism

Six Anne Arundel County Fire Department employees received awards for heroism yesterday during a ceremony at Maryland Shock Trauma Center.

Capl. Gary Sheckells, Chief Charles Rogers, firefighter Deborah Rodey, and acting Lt. Michele Delala, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), were awarded the Emergency Medical System Certificate of Honor for their rescue May 16, 1992, of a woman who was thrown from a raft in West Virginia.

The four were on-duty at the time the woman fell overboard. Firefighter and EMT Barton Shook, and Lt. James D. Ritter also were awarded the EMS Certificate of Honor for treating two stabbing victims at the Maryland House of Corrections in Jessup on July 10, 1992.

The county employees were among 35 people from fire departments around the state who were presented the awards by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Post
Frederick, Md.

MAY 2 81993

Jefferson EMT receives service award

From Staff Reports

James M. Morgan Jr., an emergency medical technician, of Jefferson, was honored Thursday afternoon at the Emergency Medical Services Awards Reception in Baltimore.

Mr. Morgan, who was nominated by I. Joyce Vincent, Frederick County EMS Committee vice chairman, received a distinguished service award for "exemplary leadership as a prehospital provider and as an administrator."

Mr. Morgan, affectionately known as "Hatchet," got his start in fire service as a volunteer firefighter for the United Fire Company in the late '60s. He later became a career firefighter and was one of the first EMTs in the state.

For the past six years, Mr. Morgan has been the chairman of the Frederick County EMS Committee. During that time he worked to initiate the annual Frederick County EMS seminar, which serves as an educational experience for more than 100 EMTs in the area. This seminar has increased the stringency of requirements for ambulance inspection and has enhanced the level of emergency medical care.

Mr. Morgan also serves as a volunteer captain with the United Fire Company in Frederick.

JUN 1 - 1993

Two are honored for being 'ready'

By MARLO BARNHART
Staff Writer

"We're Ready — Are You?" may have been the theme of this year's Emergency Medical Services Week observance in Maryland but the meaning is good all year long.

Two Washington County residents who were "ready" were honored in ceremonies last Thursday at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

Eleven-year-old Chad Bryan and Paramedic Randy Spies received certificates of honor for taking lifesaving actions.

Young Chad saw his grandfather experience a seizure and lose consciousness on Dec. 19, 1992. He dialed 911 and was able to calmly describe the situation so help could be sent.

Spies responded on an emergency call for a 23-month-old child who was choking and couldn't breathe. After clearing part of the food blocking her airway, he took her to Washington County Hospital.

Also recognized Thursday for his 30 years of service to EMS was James Morgan, a career firefighter in Frederick County and one of the first EMTs in the state.

He is chairman of the Frederick County EMS committee, a post he's held for six years.

Throughout the state, activities last week centered on preventing injuries, how to access local emergency services and to recognize EMS providers for their service day after day.

In Maryland, there are thousands of volunteer and career personnel who are part of the EMS team, ranging from first responders, EMTs, cardiorescue technicians (CRTs), paramedics, medevac crews and communication dispatchers to emergency room, trauma center and rehabilitation nurses, physicians and specialists.

All Washington County ambulance companies had representatives stationed at the Valley Mall last week with educational exhibits and information designed to attract new members.



Randy Spies

In fact, a countywide membership drive is still under way and potential volunteers are being asked to check with the ambulance companies in their area to find out what requirements are involved.

The reason for this push is to keep financially stretched companies from having to hire paid personnel in order to man their stations adequately to provide service to the citizens in their running areas.

For more information on training programs call Dick Mettetal, administrator of the Region II EMS office, at 791-2366.

Dr. Richard Alcorta, statewide EMS director, is urging Marylanders to exercise caution during summer activities, which is when most injuries occur.

Boating and swimming emergencies rise significantly as the weather gets warmer, Alcorta said. And an increasing problem with alcohol use during such activities makes the possibility of injury or death even greater.

The risk of spinal cord injuries also increases in the summer as swimmers dive into shallow or unknown waters before determining depth.

Alcorta also stresses the use of 911 to speed help to injured persons throughout the state.

Dorchester Star
Cambridge, Md.

JUN 02 1993



EMS drill

Photo by Gail Dean

A Maryland State Police helicopter emergency team participated in Saturday's event sponsored by the Eldorado-Brookview Volunteer Fire Co. during Emergency Medical Services Week. Rescue volunteers and state police were involved in a drill simulating an automobile accident.

Mo. Co. Journal
Rockville, Md.

JUN 02 1993

Volunteer EMT honored

- A county volunteer rescue worker was among 35 people honored last week for heroic acts by a state emergency medical care group.

Jonas R. Rudski, a volunteer county emergency medical technician, received the Emergency Medical Services Certificate of Honor from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in Baltimore.

Rudski received the recognition for stopping while driving home from Washington last August to help a county career firefighter who suffered severe injuries when his car slammed into a steel guardrail and

traffic light post at Goldsboro Road and Massachusetts Avenue.

Rudski provided emergency care to Firefighter Dino Johnson until rescue workers arrived. After Johnson was extricated from the car, Rudski comforted him until he arrived at Suburban Hospital and then stayed by his side until he was wheeled off to surgery.

The group also honored 5-year-old Ryan Kane of Bethesda for contacting rescue workers through 911 and helping them get into his locked home to help his mother, who had slipped into a diabetic coma.

—BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE

JUN 2 1993

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JUN 2 1993

JUN 2 1993

Son's call to 911 saves mother's life

by John P. Ourand
Staff Writer

Initially, five-year-old Ryan Kane says he is growing tired of all the attention he is getting, but the more he talks about the night he saved his mother's life, the more excited he becomes.

"We were playing blocks with mommy," Ryan begins, sounding thoroughly bored with the story he has told over and over.

As he yawns and lies down on the couch in his family's Bethesda home, he looks and acts like a typical preschooler.

Ryan and his 3-year-old sister, Erin, were enjoying themselves in the living room when Ryan looked over at his mother and saw her lying on the floor, unconscious.

Tricia Kane, a diabetic, had gone into insulin shock.

His father was out of town on a business trip. But he remembered what his mother had told him to do if something happened to her.

"I went to get the orange juice," he says, now sitting up on the couch. His brown eyes begin to twinkle.

"But I couldn't get her mouth open, and it spilled," he continues.

"That's when I called," Ryan said, holding his hand to his ear, pretending to talk into a telephone.

At 6 p.m. Feb. 23, Ryan dialed



Photo by Bill Crandall

Tricia and Ryan Kane recall the night that the 5-year-old saved his mother's life. Ryan, who lives in Bethesda, received an award for heroism last week.

911, bringing paramedics from the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department to his house within

minutes.

The paramedics revived Tricia Kane, and Ryan has been in a spotlight ever since.

Last week, Ryan received an award for heroism from the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue. He received a similar award from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System.

Ryan says he does not really understand why people are making such a fuss. He was just doing what he had been taught.

"Grandma teaches it, and mommy teaches it," Ryan says. "I just know it."

JUN 4 1993

Rescuers Cited For Saving Newborn Cited — from page 3

By Richard Bickers

Four members of the Prince George's County Fire Department have been honored by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS) for their exceptional display of emergency care in saving the life of a newborn infant in Oxon Hill.

Fire Fighter Devon Newsome and Fire Fighter Tyrone Bristol, both of the Oxon Hill fire station, and Paramedic Sherrie Bibb and Paramedic Paul Thorne received the Emergency Medical Services/Public Safety Certificate of Honor from MIEMMS.

The certificate honors individuals or organizations that have provided out-

standing emergency medical care or have made contributions that have resulted in the advancement of emergency medical services.

On June 10, 1992, firefighters Bristol and Newsome, responding to an emergency call, arrived at an apartment to discover a newborn baby boy wedged in the drain of a commode.

The two learned the infant had been submerged for an estimated 15 to 20 minutes.

"When we got in we could only see its feet. It was really wedged in," Bristol said.

Fearing possible damage to the tender newborn but knowing it couldn't survive long under the water, Bristol felt around the hole and decided he would

have to squeeze to get the head out.

Maneuvering while trying to avoid injuring the baby, Bristol was able to grasp its head and free its body from the commode.

The firefighter had to reconstruct the baby's soft head which had become misshapen from the pressure when it was extricated.

"At that point it was ashy, bluish and not breathing," Bristol said.

Bristol and Newsome cleared the baby's mouth, nose and lungs but could not fully revive it. "It kept going in and out, it would breathe and then stop," Bristol said.

Not breathing and unresponsive, the child was taken outside to a medic

unit where Para-medics Bibb and Thorne began advanced life support procedures.

Just as the emergency unit pulled up to Greater Southeast Community Hospital the baby revived, Bristol said. A strong, rapid pulse had begun to beat in his chest and he was attempting to breathe on his own.

Later evaluation of the baby showed it to be a normal, healthy boy delivered at approximately seven months gestation.

Sadly, police reports indicated that the child was apparently unwanted and the mother had allegedly attempted to kill it in the commode.

The four rescuers received their awards in a ceremony on May 27 at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

See Cited, page 3

Medics rush to work, get a rush from it

By CLYDE FORD
Staff Writer

Carol Lucas sat in the back of the Community Rescue Service ambulance Friday night as it raced to the aid of a bicyclist struck by a van on East First Avenue in Hagerstown.

Lucas, 24, the ambulance crew chief, said it reminded her of her first call with CRS.

She was 18 then, and had walked into the CRS station to fill out an application because a friend with CRS had encouraged her to join. Then the call

came and the medics told her to jump in.

That call also involved a man injured when his bicycle collided with a car.

She was excited by the adrenalin rush she experienced during the drive to the scene.

"It's still, even now, when you hear the klaxon call, you get an adrenalin rush," Lucas said. "You've got to go back week after week. It's not for everybody."

Medics were honored for their work last week during national Emergency Medical Services Week.

On Friday night, the ambulance arrived at First Avenue and Lucas, and medics Bill Elchelberger, 22, Jim Burdett, 44, and Debbie Amos, 28, jumped out.

A 17-year-old boy dressed in black was against the curb. A firefighter who had arrived earlier already had bandaged the boy's bleeding hands and forehead.

Fire police volunteers placed orange cones at both ends of the block to keep traffic away. A Hagerstown City Police officer took the driver aside to question him.

Elchelberger placed a brace on the boy's neck. Then the medics placed him carefully on a backboard, strapped him on to it and loaded him into an ambulance.

One of the most important things medics do on a scene is to prevent further injury. In this case, they used the backboard to cut the risk of aggravating any neck or back injury the young man might have sustained in the accident.

Please turn to RESCUE, A3

The Herald-Mail
Sunday, May 30, 1993

A3

Rescue

Continued from A1

On the way to the hospital, Elchelberger placed splints on the boy's legs while Burdett asked him questions and wrote his responses on a form attached to a clipboard. Lucas drove the ambulance. Amos took an ice pack and placed it on the boy's forehead.

Time on the scene: 11 minutes.

At the hospital, the boy was wheeled into the emergency room and taken to one of the curtained bays for patients.

While Burdett filled out paperwork, Amos and Lucas replaced the equipment they used on the patient from the stocks at the hospital. Elchelberger telephoned to have his mother pick him up at the emergency room instead of at the station.

At the table where Burdett filled out paperwork was a monitor. The medics can respond to calls from the hospital if needed.

Back at the station, the medics gathered around a pool table while Lucas made what she said was the toughest decision of the week — where to order their food.

"We go through this each Friday," Amos said.

They phoned in their order and then took the food back to the station. The crew seldom eats at res-

taurants because their meals are often interrupted by emergency calls.

But much of Friday night was uneventful. The crew gathered in the station's living room to watch television. Lucas fell asleep on a sofa. At 11 p.m., her crew's shift ended and a new crew came on.

Wayne Williams, 53, said he's been pulling the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift on Fridays since 1981. He and other volunteers from Smithsburg joined CRS to gain experience when they started up the Smithsburg Rescue Co.

In addition to being the Smithsburg chief, he also continues to serve as a medic with CRS.

"When you don't have calls, the night goes slow," Williams said.

On slow nights, the camaraderie helps pass the time, said Vikki Lucas, 41, who joined CRS about a year and a half ago after seeing how much her daughter enjoyed it.

"It gets in your blood," she said.

Dorchester Star
Cambridge, Md.

JUN 02 1993

Guest commentary

EMS is based on people

By H. KEVIN KNUSSMAN

Maryland has the most effective Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System in the world. Maryland's citizens are serviced by sophisticated hospitals, state-of-the-art medevac helicopters, modern ambulances, an extensive communications system, and a statewide agency to coordinate EMS. However, the best-equipped system in the world is nothing without the thousands of caring individuals who make the system function.

Ultimately, it is holding hands, the kind words, the soft smiles that comfort each patient. These acts easily become lost in the vast technology involved with modern emergency medicine. Emergency Medical Services is people helping people first and foremost!

Emergency medical personnel are armed with a vast array of equipment and drugs. However, this great complement of tools can never substitute for the kindness given by an individual health care provider.

Personnel must be able to function in vastly different environments, often under difficult or dangerous conditions. Training to perform effectively in such adverse conditions involves a broad spectrum of topics.

The EMS system continues to face many challenges in striving to provide the very best emergency medical treatment. One of the most pressing challenges for the Emergency Medical Service is supplying an adequate number of trained personnel.

There are many opportunities to become involved in EMS. Career

opportunities continue to expand in the area of health care, and particularly within EMS. Health care is often cited as an area where the number of job opportunities will be growing in the future.

Nursing is one example where a lack of trained personnel has resulted in many unfilled job positions. Nurses have expanded their career far beyond traditional boundaries and now include many specialties.

Volunteer opportunities exist everywhere. Most communities have a severe shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians, and other volunteers, to operate the ambulance or emergency medical service. The shortage of trained personnel within your community may be so critical that no one responds to an emergency call.

The future holds many exciting opportunities to help other human beings. New medical procedures and expanding knowledge will permit treatment never before thought possible. None of these advances are possible without someone trained and certified to provide emergency care.

Each resident of Maryland shares in the responsibilities for an effective EMS system, even if they do not directly provide emergency services. Everyone should know basic safety procedures, C.P.R. (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), and first aid. All Marylanders should know that 9-1-1 is the statewide emergency telephone access number.

Practicing safety at home and work can prevent an accident from ever happening. EMS Week, like Fire

Prevention Week, is a great opportunity to teach a child some personal safety measures. As the saying goes, "Safety is no accident!"

Emergency Medical Services Week is dedicated to recognize those individuals who provide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Without dedicated people the system can not function. This week is also a golden opportunity for EMS personnel to nurture an interest about EMS among other members of the community.

Each person can have a positive impact in the community, by becoming directly involved in EMS, or by participating in improved safety efforts within in your home and community.

Maryland's Emergency Medical Services is here because of the interest, support, and funding of Maryland's citizens. Each person should become knowledgeable about the EMS system, learn how to prevent an emergency, and what to do if one happens! Where we go from here is up to you!

Maryland Emergency Medical Services Week is May 23-29. This year's theme is "We're Ready — Are You?" The focus is on educating the public about accident prevention, emergency first aid, and how to access local emergency services.

Kevin Knussman is an EMT-Paramedic. He lives in Easton.

JUN 7 1993

"People are going to die. Our job is to try and change that."

Education never ends for emergency medical team



Times Photo by Susan Camfora

BREATHING AID. Using a model of an unconscious man who has stopped breathing, paramedic Skip Carey demonstrates how a tube can be inserted in the throat and artificial means used to keep a patient breathing on the way to the hospital.

People find satisfaction in helping others

By SUSAN CANFORA
Daily Times Staff Writer

BERLIN — Years ago, all an ambulance attendant could do was rush the patient to the hospital, sometimes while giving him oxygen.

"We called it LLC — lift, load and carry," said Robert Lee Smith, an emergency medical technician for the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department for the past 20 years. "Oxygen was the only thing you could give back then. The technician now can start IVs and get the patient on the heart monitor."

Smith, 73, of Newark, Md., has seen a lot of changes over the years. Techniques are still changing as advances are made. EMTs are required to take continuing education classes. "CPR changes and you have to take it again every three years. It's getting more complicated all the time. They make changes in the way it's done," he said.

Terri Nutter, EMS liaison for Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties, said there are about 600 emergency medical technicians in the three counties, along with 75 cardiac rescue technicians and 40 paramedics.

During the recent EMS Week, personnel visited local nursery schools and elementary schools and showed children an ambulance.

"We targeted children because they usually go home and talk to mom and dad about what happened during the day and we can educate mom and dad through them," she said.

Emergency personnel "do initial stabilization like we do here in the hospital," Nutter said. "What they do in the field is highly skilled and highly sophisticated, much more than it used to be. In years past, it was just scoop the patient up and bring him to the hospital," she said.

"The community is well served. They have completed long hours of extensive training. They have to keep up with continuing education each year and maintain their skill level each year," she said.

Emergency medical technicians "see people with every kind of problem, from a general illness right on through to dying," Smith said.

Smith helps the paramedic "pack" the patient, or place him on a board and secure him. "When you get there, you try to keep the family calm."

Sickness, injury and death are part of his job. "You get used to it," he said. He can't help but

take a personal interest in some patients, though, and sometimes follows up by checking their condition at the hospital.

Skip Carey, paramedic and emergency medical services supervisor for Ocean Pines Emergency Medical Services, has worked for the Pines since the ambulance service began Oct. 1, 1985.

Emergency medical services offers several levels of training, Carey explained. Paramedics are required to get 800 hours of training; cardiac rescue technicians, 200 to 250 hours; and emergency medical technicians, 110 hours.

First responders receive 40 hours. That program, designed for law enforcement officers and firefighters, "is like advanced first aid training," Carey said.

EMTs offer the first intervention. "They make the hurt go away, put a bandage on, control bleeding," he said. EMTs are trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and emergency childbirth techniques and carry out other duties, such as applying splints.

Cardiac rescue technicians "have the ability to do cardiac monitoring on the patient and determine various problems," he said. "They know how to start intravenous. They administer various medications, some analgesics, and morphine and valium at certain times."

Paramedics can dispense a wider range of drugs, prepare some medications that drip into the intravenous fluid and place a tube in the trachea so the patient can breathe.

By July 1, cardiac rescue technicians will also have the trachea skill.

He, too, has seen changes over the years. "I've been involved in the fire service since 1966 and actively involved in EMS since 1980. We've had a decrease of family doctors. Since we're in a relatively rural area and we don't have a lot of clinics to go to, the ambulance people are getting called to go to the house, the way you used to call the doctor," he said.

Not everybody is taken to the hospital. "An emergency is an emergency to the person who is having it, but it may not be a real emergency," he said.

When there's a serious injury or grave illness, the paramedics try to keep family members calm while the patient is being cared for. "One of our personnel will become involved in crisis intervention, where you talk to the family and calm them down," Carey said. "Often they're scared to death."

Sometimes there's a little humor involved. Recently, a woman walked into the fire department in south Ocean Pines, where the EMS office is located, with a fish hook dangling from her jaw. "She wasn't upset. She said, 'He caught a 110-pound one today — me,'" Carey said.

"We've gotten calls at 3 a.m. for toothaches. We've had calls for sunburns, sea nettle stings," he said.

Despite the pressures, Carey finds the job satisfying. "I'm immensely pleased with it. You get to see almost immediate response to your actions. The flip side of the coin is we see humanity at its worst. You can't take the pressures home because it will ultimately destroy you. There's a fine line between not caring enough and caring too much," he said.

While deaths bother him, he said, "It's important to take it from the view that, OK, we did everything we were trained to do. We did everything we could to give that patient the extra chance. That overcomes some of it."

"It's like Dr. Robert Adkins (medical director in the department of emergency services) at Peninsula Regional



Robert Lee Smith of Newark, Md., an emergency medical technician for the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, remains ready to take the next patient to the hospital. Smith has been a medical technician for 20 years.

Times Photo by Susan Canfora

Medical Center says when he's teaching our classes, 'We're in business to resuscitate, not to resurrect.' You have to keep that attitude," Carey said. Adkins is

also EMS director for the Eastern Shore.

"People are going to die. Our job is to try and change that," he said.

MAY 27 1993

Frostburg man owes life to emergency care providers

Collapses while installing porch awning last spring

JOHN D. SMITH

Times-News Staff Writer
Second of three parts

FROSTBURG — Harper Lewis can't say enough about the people that have just cut him a slice of cake baked in his honor.

It isn't Mr. Lewis' birthday, but an anniversary of life. Last May 19, the 66-year-old East Mechanic Street resident collapsed in his yard and his heart stopped beating.

Within seconds, Barry Winters, an Emergency Medical Technician with Frostburg

Area Ambulance, was breathing life back into Mr. Lewis' lungs. Mr. Winters was working at nearby General Arts Store when he heard the call for help on his pager.

An ambulance crew arrived shortly thereafter and began administering advanced life support treatment. With cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in progress, Mr. Lewis was whisked away to Frostburg Hospital and subsequently on to Washington Hospital Center.

"For two weeks, I didn't remember anything," says Mr. Lewis. "I do recall this good-



Times-News/John D. Smith
Frostburg resident Harper Lewis and wife Virginia were invited back to Frostburg Area Ambulance last week one year after Mr. Lewis suffered a near-fatal heart attack at his East Mechanic Street home.

looking nurse feeding me sherbet in Washington, though." That just happened to be his wife Virginia, who kept a constant watch at his bedside.

In observance of Emergency Medical Services Week, Frostburg Area Ambulance invited Mr. Lewis back to the squad and presented him with a "We Care" cake.

"I can't give them enough credit," says Mr. Lewis, who is retired from the City of Frostburg. "I build them up anytime I can. I know I wouldn't be here