

Dane County

Monthly Newsletter

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PHYSICIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EMS IN DANE COUNTY?

You may have seen the two Physician Field Response Vehicles out on the roads or heard about them on scene with a Dane County Service in the past few months. Although certainly not unique to our area, the County EMS Office felt it would be beneficial to provide additional information on both relatively new programs as well as the resources they bring. First, it is important to understand: **NEITHER OF THESE RESOURCES ARE INTENDED TO REPLACE ALS OR THE TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM WE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ESTABLISH!** The EMS Physician Response Vehicles are meant to be an additional tool in the pocket of EMS when responding to large, complex or evolving Dane County events, IF the situation merits its use. *There is no fee to the patient or EMS agency for the use of this resource.*

Q: Why would I want an EMS Physician responding to a call in the field?

A: The goal of both programs is to build, train and support EMS systems that do NOT need a Physician in the field. There are, however, rare occasions when the advanced skills, authority or access to hospital resources may be warranted. Some examples include but are not limited to: authorization for alternate destination transport during a mass casualty incident (MCI), prolonged/complicated extrications requiring on-scene medical care outside the field provider skill set (i.e. field amputation, lateral canthotomy, finger/tube thoracostomy, etc.), or expanding events with unclear patient involvement or community threats. In these situations, an EMS trained Physician who is knowledgeable about the County capabilities, community resources and hospital abilities may be beneficial.

REMEMBER: the goal of the EMS Physician is NOT to assume control at a scene or replace ALS, rather to augment the well-established EMS response and integrate with responders.

Q: Who decides when an EMS Physician response is appropriate?

A: The Incident Commander should be the ONLY person to request this resource based on EMS request. EMS personnel are felt to be the best trained, best equipped and most experienced to evaluate the capabilities of medical resources on scene against the anticipated evolving patient needs.

Q: How do I request an EMS Physician response?

A: This resource should be requested through the Dane County Public Safety Communications Center. Similar to a MABAS activation, the Incident Commander in cooperation with the EMS Branch Director will determine the need for an EMS Physician and should request this resource in a similar manner. The Dane County Public Safety Communications Center will contact the Physician on call, confirm response and relay an ETA to the requesting entity. The UW Physician Response Vehicle (aka "The MARV") is staffed 24x7x365 by one of twelve field trained Physicians and will therefore be the default resource contacted. If Dr. Kronenfeld (aka "MEP-1") is preferred, it should be specified at the time of the request.

UW Health MARV

Staffed by a combination of 12 EMS Fellowship trained and Med Flight Physicians 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. "The MARV" is the affectionate name of our current truck, an acronym for "Medical Assist Response Vehicle"; it is an homage to Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, a local pioneer of EMS Medical Direction, education and advocacy. Although our primary mission is support of Dane County EMS, we are happy to assist services and provide coverage into our neighbor counties as well. In addition to on-scene Medical Direction and expanded patient care functions, this vehicle is employed during EMS education, social and outreach activities. Our Physicians take it to mass gathering and event medicine responses, as well as regional and State EMS meetings and advocacy opportunities. The MARV is equipped to serve as a brief, stand-alone BLS response and is capable of providing aid until the responding agencies arrive. Additional equipment was chosen with the belief that responding ALS partners would have better access to and practice with necessary medications and IV Access techniques, allowing the EMS Providers and Physician to augment each other's strengths and operate in tandem. While this is not a complete list, some of the equipment includes: SALT Triage bag for multiple casualty events; hemorrhage control bag with combat gauze, tourniquets, chest seals; trauma bag with chest seals, needle decompression, wound packing supplies; Procedure roll with equipment for field amputation, lateral canthotomy, laceration repair, chest tube placement, exsanguinating hemorrhage control; airway bag with BIADs, ET Tubes, Laryngoscopy, cricothyrotomy kits; Tactical bag with extrication tools and patient care for light- and noise-discipline environments; soft body armor for rapid response; incident command support equipment and supplies (portable white board, etc.); Vehicle based interoperable radio, CAD access and GPS. For additional information, please contact:

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SSM– St. Mary's MEP-1

Currently staffed by Dr. Kronenfeld, when available. The acronym "MEP-1" represents the dual functionality of the vehicle as a "Mobile EMS Physician" and a "Mobile Education Program" and is part of a regional program for SSM Health throughout South Central Wisconsin. You may see MEP-1 and our EMS team responding to

911 calls with agencies under Dr. Kronenfeld's medical direction, at mass gathering or sporting events, transporting our sim family to educational activities, participating in community events, or even at local/regional/state EMS meetings. Watch for MEP-2 in 2019! MEP-1 carries a wide range of supplies given the various functions performed including but not limited to: Temp controlled box with ALS medications such as controlled substances and RSI medications, advanced airway equipment including recordable video laryngoscopy, OB equipment including peri-mortem c-section kit, portable handheld ultrasound, trauma supplies including triage equipment and field amputation kit, Zoll X series defibrillator, protective equipment including high visibility vests, extrication rated protective coats and pants, and ballistic vests. Mep-1 is equipped with advanced communication capabilities with portable and in-car radios programmed with local and regional channels. It also has full CAD access including GPS. For additional information, please contact:

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