



Delaware County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delaware County EMS Receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Award

Delaware County Commissioners today congratulated Delaware County EMS upon receipt of the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Bronze Award. This is the second year in a row that Delaware County EMS is in the top 2 percent of the country for their commitment and success in implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack known as a STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction).

Delaware County EMS joins 442 of the 19,000 other EMS agencies in the United States as a recipient of American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline Emergency Medical Services Performance Achievement Award.

"Delaware County EMS, under the leadership of Chief Mike Schuiling, is dedicated to making our system among the best in the state, and the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish that by implementing processes for improving STEMI systems of care with the goal of improving the quality of care for all STEMI patients," said Commission President Gary Merrell. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care for STEMI patients."

Every year, almost 300,000 people experience a STEMI, a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

"Unfortunately, a significant number don't receive adequate blood flow in time. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes those emergency responders for their efforts in improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients and we are proud to accept this award on behalf of our patients and responders," said Chief Mike Schuiling, Delaware County EMS.

This recognition program is designed to showcase EMS agencies across the country for excellent STEMI care. Agencies that receive the Mission: Lifeline Bronze award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for each required achievement measure for three months (one quarter), and treated at least four STEMI patients for the year.

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