



Delaware County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delaware County—Delaware County EMS hits perfect score!

Delaware County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recently completed a voluntary accreditation process with a perfect score! In receiving this "Gold Standard" accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), Delaware County EMS becomes only the fourth of 1,332 EMS agencies in the State of Ohio to obtain this distinction. The county department was awarded this recognition after a comprehensive self-study, formal application and review, and a two-day on-site evaluation and verification by a team of national experts in emergency medical services (EMS).

"Our staff has been key to the successful completion of the process," said Chief Rob Farmer, Director of Emergency Medical Services for Delaware County. "CAAS accreditation gives all members of the department a feeling of prestige and pride to work in an accredited agency. Everyone in the department, and many other departments, along with the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator, played valuable roles in our ability to meet the Commission's high standards. Together, we have achieved this 'gold standard' accreditation. This is just one piece of our department's continued commitment to excellence!"

Delaware County Commission President Dennis Stapleton compliments Chief Farmer and his staff on this excellent accomplishment, "because what it really means is that the residents of our county are receiving the best pre-hospital care delivered by the most well-trained professionals in their field."

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For Delaware County EMS, this “journey to excellence” began in 2008. The process involved a top-to-bottom review of every aspect of its operations. Guidelines were established to formalize procedures that were already in place, and new guidelines and procedures were put into practice to comply with CAAS’ high standards.

“Every member of the department embraced the process and the necessary changes. The onsite review team, which consisted of an EMS physician and two experienced EMS Administrators from CAAS accredited agencies, were complimentary of the success Delaware County EMS, and all said that they would be proud to work for this agency,” shared Chief Farmer.

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services, established in 1990, is a non-profit organization designed to encourage and promote quality patient care in America’s EMS systems. The primary focus of the Commission’s standards is high quality patient care. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the EMS agency’s total operation; it’s relationships with other agencies, the community at large, and the medical community it works with. The Commission’s standards often exceed state or local requirements.

Established in 1808, Delaware County is located in the center of Ohio, is 459 square miles in size, and serves more than 174,000 residents. With 1100+ employees and a budget of \$46.5 million, Delaware County is one of the top 50 employers in central Ohio and continues to be the fastest growing county in the state.

For more information, please find us on Facebook or visit our Web site at www.co.delaware.oh.us