



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Roanoke County Honors Its Emergency Medical Service Providers

National EMS week is May 17-23, 2009

May 18, 2009 (ROANOKE COUNTY) – Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department is gearing up to celebrate Emergency Medical Services Week by recognizing all EMS personnel and kicking off their annual summer safety campaign. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is celebrated nationally and in Roanoke County during the week of May 17-23, 2009.

The theme for 2009 is “EMS - A Proud Partner in Your Community”. This statement was chosen to recognize the commitment that emergency medical personnel make to the communities they serve. This dedication to their mission provides round-the-clock care to communities across the nation. The weeklong series of events will include national and local activities to honor EMS providers (paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and firefighters) to raise public awareness about health and safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in a medical emergency.

The system of Emergency Medical Services in Roanoke County starts with a dispatcher. The dispatcher handles incoming 9-1-1 calls, determines the nature and location of the emergency and sends the needed medical help. Next, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) arrive in the ambulance or fire truck. EMT/Basic level personnel are trained to provide Basic Life Support; EMT/Paramedic level personnel provide Advanced Life Support. In Roanoke County there are over 76 career EMT/Basics and 71 EMT/Paramedics. Roanoke County also has a volunteer system that boasts over 175 EMS providers.

EMTs provide Basic Life Support (BLS), such as first aid, oxygen administration, airway management, application of splints and bandages, CPR and automated defibrillation. Advanced Life Support (ALS) is provided by paramedics. ALS includes intravenous therapy, invasive airway management, administration of medications, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation. There are also EMT-Intermediates who function as mid-level emergency medical care providers.

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors recognized Roanoke County EMS personnel and proclaimed May 17-23, 2009 as EMS week in Roanoke County at their May 12 afternoon meeting.

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National & Local EMS Week Activities:

- **The 17th Annual National EMS Memorial Service in Roanoke, VA
May 23, 2009, 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church**

The mission of the National EMS Memorial Service is to honor and remember those men and women of America's Emergency Medical Services who have given their lives in the line of duty, and to recognize the sacrifice they have made in service to their communities and their fellow man. Each year, hundreds of family members, friends, co-workers, EMS and political leaders, and colleagues from EMS agencies from around the nation gather together in Roanoke to remember the honorees. The National EMS Memorial is not a single event but rather a weekend of events centered around the ceremony known as the National EMS Memorial Service. For more information visit: <http://nemsms.org/default.htm>.

- **National EMS Memorial Bike Ride
May 16-22, 2009**

The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride raises awareness of the National EMS Memorial and the National EMS Memorial Service, which honors those members of the EMS community who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Over 150 bikers will be stopping at the Hollins Fire & Rescue Station in Roanoke County on Friday to receive refreshments. For more information on the Bike Ride visit: www.muddyangels.org.

- **Roanoke County's Summer Safety Campaign**

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue is kicking off their Summer Safety Campaign by distributing educational materials and summer safety tips to children around the county at a variety of events. The Summer Safety Campaign includes some of the following safety tips for children:

- stay alert,
- always buckle up in motor vehicles,
- don't talk or go with strangers,
- always walk, play & swim with a buddy,
- stay away from things that can burn you,
- wear a helmet when riding a bike, scooter or skate board, and
- never touch a weapon- if you find one tell an adult right away.

If you would like more information please call 777-8718 or visit www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/FireRescue.

- **Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Medical Information Form publicized**

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue is using the opportunity of EMS week to publicize its Medical Information Form. This form is given to county citizens as a way for them to document their important medical information on one sheet in case of a medical emergency. The form includes the citizen's name, insurance information, medical diagnosis and medications currently being taken. The form allows the EMT to see important medical information at a glance that may help in the treatment of the patient. Citizens can download this form from the Fire & Rescue website at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/FireRescue or call 777-8701.

Below is the Medical Information Form.

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FOLD ALONG LINE & PLACE ON OUTSIDE OF YOUR REFRIGERATOR



MEDICAL INFORMATION

FOLD ALONG LINE & PLACE ON OUTSIDE OF YOUR REFRIGERATOR