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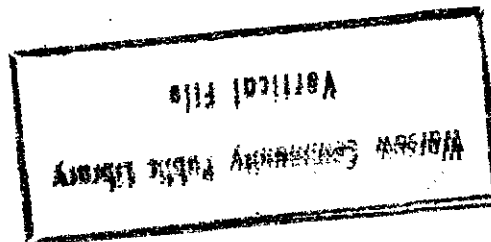
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## KOSCIUSKO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

\* Please note: There is a video tape entitled "Kosciusko EMS - Composite + Comparison" which supplements this reading material. Ask at the circulation desk for the video.

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**PROSPECTIVE AND COMPARISON**



by

**MARK MEYER AND LARRY LADD**

**VIDEO AND PRESENTATION**

**Kosciusko County** is unique in its Emergency Medical Care.

Within its boundaries operates seven fully independent Emergency Medical Services. We shall identify and provide a limited background into each service. Our purpose is to share this information with the residents of Kosciusko County of the important role played by EMS in our lives and in our community.

A statewide **Emergency Medical Service** was mandated by the Indiana Legislature in 1975. The Kosciusko County Commissioners decided against establishing a county wide system and instead left the decision up to each individual township. Because of this fact inherent problems with communication and organization exist between the seven services. Irregardless, we believe all county services provide professional patient care by trained and dedicated EMS personnel and all residents of Kosciusko County should be grateful for their service to this community.

We shall briefly discuss our concerns and make limited recommendations into how we believe Kosciusko County EMS Services may become more efficient and responsive to the citizens they serve.

## FOUR WAY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Four Way EMS is based in Mentone, Indiana. An all volunteer organization providing basic service to Harrison Township and surrounding communities.

It currently has ten (10) Emergency Medical Technicians and thirteen (13) support personnel. It operates with one (1) ambulance and responds to Kosciusko Community Hospital and Woodlawn Hospital in Rochester.

In 1988, 127 total requests for service or (.35) calls per day were received. Automobile accidents made up seventeen (17) responses. Eighteen (18) responses were heart related and nine (9) transfers made to nursing care facilities.

The basic charge for transport is \$50.00.

## MILFORD EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Milford EMS is operated from Milford, Indiana. A volunteer basic service providing medical care to Van Buren, and communities in portions of Plain and Jefferson Township.

Sixteen (16) Emergency Medical Technicians and nine (9) support personnel make up Milford EMS. It operates with two (2) ambulances and services Goshen General Hospital and Kosciusko Community Hospital.

In 1988, Milford responded to 275 request for service, an average of (.75) calls per day. One hundred (100) responses were made to automobile accidents, ten (10) heart related patients and fifty (50) transfers made to nursing care facilities.

The basic rate is \$50.00.

## MULTI-TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Multi-Township EMS is based in Warsaw, Indiana. A full time paid paramedic organization serving all of Wayne Township as well as Etna, Plain, and Troy Townships. Including the communities of Warsaw, Winona Lake, Etna Green and Atwood. In addition Multi-Township dual responds with all other EMS agencies within Kosciusko County providing paramedic service.

Currently Multi-Township operates with nine (9) paramedics, seventeen (17) Emergency Medical Technicians. Multi-Township operates five (5) ambulances responding to Kosciusko Community Hospital, Parkview, Lutheran and St. Joe Hospitals in Fort Wayne and Goshen General.

In 1988, Multi-Township made 2,565 responses or ( 7.03) calls per day. Of the total amount of responses made, 628 were to automobile accidents, 343 heart related patients, 442 nursing care facilities transports with the remainder including non-automotive accidents, and non-emergency transfers. Multi-Township paramedics responded with other agencies 83 times in 1988.

The basic rate is \$120.00.

## NORTH WEBSTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

North Webster EMS is based in North Webster, Indiana. An all volunteer basic EMS service providing emergency care to Tippecanoe Township as well as portions of Plain and Turkey Creek Townships. In addition it serves the communities within portions of Noble and Whitley Counties.

It currently operates with fifteen (15) Emergency Medical Technicians and thirteen (13) additional support personnel. North Webster EMS operates two (2) ambulances primarily responding to Kosciusko Community Hospital, Goshen General Hospital and Whitley County Hospital in Columbia City. Transfers are made on a regular basis to the major hospitals in Fort Wayne.

In 1988, 499 requests for services were made by North Webster EMS for an average of (1.37) calls per day. As a resort-retirement community a large portion of responses are made throughout the summer months. In 1988, North Webster responded to one hundred and eleven (111) automobile accidents, eleven (11) motorcycle accidents, eighty-eight (88) heart related patients, thirty-seven (37) fall oriented injuries, seven (7) water related accidents and transported fifty-four (54) nursing care patients.

The basic rate for service is \$60.00.

## PIERCETON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Based in Pierceton. Pierceton EMS is the only all volunteer advanced life support Emergency Medical Service within Kosciusko County.

It services Washington and Monroe Townships and operates to Whitley County Hospital in Columbia City and Kosciusko Community Hospital. It currently operates with twelve (12) Emergency Medical Technicians made up partially of IV Technicians with three (3) additional support personnel. Pierceton EMS operates two (2) ambulances.

In 1988, Pierceton responded to 162 calls, averaging (.44) calls per day. Automobile accidents accounted for thirty-nine (39) transports of which ten (10) were alcohol related. Twenty (20) patients were transported with heart conditions, and eight (8) transports were made to nursing care facilities.

The basic rate charge is \$65.00.

## SOUTH CENTRAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

South Central EMS is based in Silver Lake, Indiana. A volunteer organization in basic life support with service to Clay Township and portions of communities in Wabash county.

South Central currently operates with fourteen (14) Emergency Medical Technicians and Twenty (20) support personnel. One ambulance is maintained.

In 1988, 159 responses were made for an average of (.44) calls per day. Of the 159 calls received, twenty-eight (28) were involving automobiles accidents, thirty-two (32) were heart related patients, and two (2) patients were transferred to nursing care facilities.

The basic rate charge for transport is \$70.00.



## SYRACUSE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Based in Syracuse, an all volunteer basic EMS service provides emergency medical care to Turkey Creek Township and the surrounding communities in Elkhart and Noble counties.

Syracuse presently operates two ambulances with seven (7) Emergency Medical Technicians with an additional eight (8) support personnel. Transports are made to Goshen Hospital and Kosciusko Community Hospital.

In 1988, Syracuse responded to 414 requests for service averaging (1.13) calls per day. Because of the resort oriented activities in the summer months Syracuse EMS experiences large increases in responses during this period. In 1988, twenty (20) patients had heart related problems, thirty-nine (39) responses were automobile accidents and 8 transports to nursing care facilities.

The current basic rate charge for transporting patients is \$45.00.

### TOTAL COMBINED STATISTICS

TOTAL RESPONSES:	4201
CALLS PER DAY:	11.51
NUMBER OF AMBULANCES:	15
TOTAL NUMBER OF EMTS:	91
PARAMEDICS:	9
AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS RESPONSES:	962
NURSING CARE TRANSPORTS:	573

## **CONCERNS**

Communication and cooperation among of the services.

Lack of leadership and training by area medical facilities.

No standardization within the county of equipment, record keeping, training and policy.

Policy formation inhibited by political influence.

Lack of personnel.

Inappropriate funding.

## **BENEFITS**

Small community services are able to provide a more personal service by keeping their identity with that community.

Emergency medical care costs are kept to the minimum in most cases by providing basic medical care.

Volunteerism is more apparent in smaller communities.

Decisions based more upon the specific needs of each community.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Establishment of a county wide EMS organization involving all seven EMS agencies within Kosciusko County. This should be time of conducting business, discussions of problems, introduction of new methods, training techniques and open forum. We suggest that each month a meeting be held in a different location throughtout the county and be open to all EMS agencies and personnel.
2. Recommend to the State EMS Commission that automatic defibrillators and advanced airway mangement be included as basic life support. By providing additional training to basic agencies we feel many lives can be saved by this advanced technology especially when many communities are over 15 minutes away from advanced health care facilities. This would allow smaller communities more advanced patient care without the extreme cost of a paramedic program.
3. The establishment of a private carrier for transporting patients to and from nursing care facilities. Many hours are spent in transporting nursing care patients causing additional overloading especially in volunteer organizations. This would help relieve this burden.