



# THE HEMS *DISPATCH*



## Greetings!

Since 1894, Hennepin EMS has proudly delivered medical care and transportation to the residents and visitors of Minneapolis and the surrounding communities. While much has changed since our horse and buggy days, we've long recognized the strength and expertise that we bring to every response call as part of the Hennepin Healthcare System (HHS).

Earlier this month, Hennepin Healthcare honored HEMS, along with myself and EMS Medical Director Dr. Nick Simpson, with the HHS 2023 Excellence Award. This award recognizes the team's commitment to excellence by being safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered. We're proud to serve Hennepin County as part of this world-class health system – then, now and for years to come.

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## HEMS *BY THE NUMBERS*

Did you know? All our physicians are board-certified. It's a rigorous process, and one that ensures our physicians are offering the absolute highest-quality care.

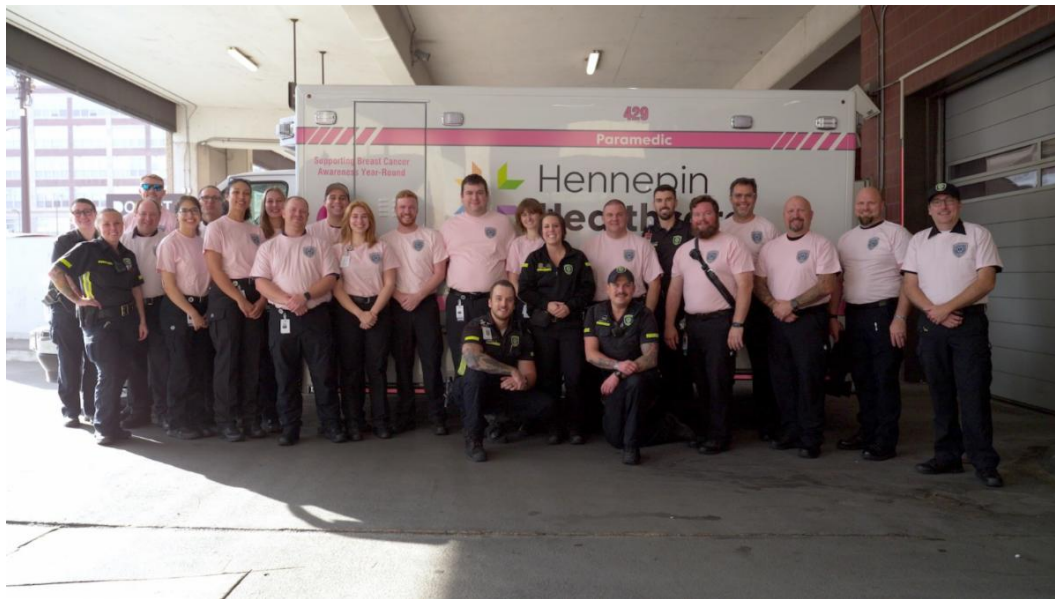
What does it take to become a board-certified EMS physician? Quite a bit, actually.

First, they must become board certified in another specialty (a three- to seven-year process). Next, they need to attend a fellowship accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for one year. They also have to log more than 104 hours of teaching and, finally, pass the EMS Board Certification exam.

At Hennepin EMS, we're proud to have the largest group of board-certified EMS physicians on staff in the metro.



## HEMS *IN THE NEWS*



The new “Pink Truck,” ambulance #429, made headlines this month. The Pink Truck is a state-of-the-art, fully operational ambulance that matches all other HEMS rigs apart from its exterior pink graphics. Both KSTP and [KARE](#) covered the reveal of the eye-catching ambulance, which honors patients and survivors of breast cancer as well as our own HEMS Paramedic Ali Gaffney, who was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer last year.

### Get your HEMS gear!

Check out [our new online store](#) and browse HEMS merch for sale, including special pink items! Proceeds from HEMS merchandise sales will directly benefit Hennepin Healthcare Foundation's EMS Staff Recognition and Appreciation Fund, which serves as a means to support Hennepin EMS staff throughout the year. Proceeds from pink item sales will be donated to the Firefly Sisterhood, which is a non-profit providing one-to-one social and emotional support to women who have been impacted by breast cancer.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Gaffney was also surprised earlier this month by Minnesota Vikings running back Alexander Mattison,

with a signed football and tickets to a game!

Mattison helped support the fight against cancer by visiting Hennepin Healthcare's Comprehensive Cancer Center. The visit was part of #CrucialCatch, a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the NFL. Mattison met with patients and shared his personal connection to cancer.



On Oct. 16, HEMS kicked off a Paramedic and EMT Academy. This new employee group includes five new paramedics, one EMT and two EMDs. Many members of the incoming staff are joining Hennepin EMS from other services, including Twin Cities fire departments and other EMS.

On Oct. 23, we had a badging ceremony for our April Academy graduates. We're excited to have this great group add to our paramedic force!



## HEMS IN THE COMMUNITY



A key part of responding to any emergency effectively is first responder collaboration. To that end, we've been collaborating with local fire departments and practicing how we work together on-scene. The state-of-the-art Hennepin EMS Sim Ambulance helps us fine-tune these skills. Recently, we partnered with Excelsior firefighters for this important practice. We'll visit many of our suburban communities with the Sim Ambulance, as part of our dedication to being a teaching organization and strong partner.



*Photo credit: St. Anthony Village Fire Department*

October is a busy time for fire department open houses. Last month, we visited St. Louis Park and this month, Hennepin EMS participated in Eden Prairie and St. Anthony Village events. It's always a pleasure to spend time showcasing our rigs and answering questions from community members. Thanks for coming by to see us!





Like many in Minnesota, we watched the Twins playoff series with a lot of excitement! After clinching the American League Central division, Twins fans flocked to Target Field for three home playoff games. Hennepin EMS offered medical support both on and off the field at all of these games. What a season!



What a frightening time we had at this year's Trunk or Treat events! HEMS participated in Richfield's fifth annual event at the Morris Nilsen Funeral Chapel, plus another in Minneapolis' Loring Park. We loved seeing all of the creative costumes and handing out treats while also sharing Halloween safety reminders with kids and parents.



Hennepin EMS Chief and Sr. Director of EMS Martin Scheerer recently shared the latest advancements and innovations from HEMS at Greenwood City Council and the Excelsior Morning Rotary. We welcome these opportunities to converse with city leaders and community members about HEMS and our services. If you'd like to have Chief Scheerer speak at an upcoming city or networking meeting, [email us](#).



Public safety officials and first responders across the country are sporting pink patches to call attention to the fight against breast cancer. The "[Pink Patch Project](#)" started in 2019 and now over 750 agencies participate nationwide, including HEMS. Here in the Twin Cities, a number of local agencies gathered for the Pink Patch Project trade show at the Rosemount Community Center, where people could purchase pink variations of typical insignias. Proceeds from sales benefited [The Firefly Sisterhood](#).



## SUCCESS STORIES

A young mother and former Hennepin Health nurse midwife in Eden Prairie shared her thanks with our team earlier this month after she suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA):

*"I am in the 10% that survive an out of hospital SCA. I am alive, home from the hospital, and doing well. I arrested in front of my children and my husband started CPR. They, and I, are more grateful than we can say to the team that provided such amazing care and rapid transport."*

*I am also a former Hennepin Health employee (nurse midwife) and if I thought the organization was amazing when I worked there, I am even more in awe of Hennepin Health today.*

*Thank you for any help you can give me! My kids, my husband, and myself are forever grateful..."*



*Photo credit: Saint Anthony Village*

## **Saint Anthony Fire Chief retiring this month**

Saint Anthony Fire Chief Mark Sitarz is retiring this month and we want to thank him for being a wonderful partner during his 10 years of service. Together, we've worked closely with Chief Sitarz and his team. We even piloted a new program together – the advanced life support program where we train their paramedic/firefighters.

**Thanks for your service to the community, Chief!**

