



THE HEMS *DISPATCH*



Greetings!

The days are getting shorter, kids are back in school, and the air is getting crisper. Fall is here, and for EMS, it signals the beginning of a very busy season refreshing skills, visiting communities, and staffing sporting events.

This fall we've already partnered with several other first response agencies to sharpen our skills and how we collaborate. One was an active threat drill we ran with Eden Prairie Fire and Eden Prairie Police at Prairie View Elementary School. While we hope to never have to use these skills, we're proud to have the most efficient response ready should the unthinkable occur.

Another training we've facilitated is Technical Rescue Medic (TRM) training. This elite group of paramedics is specially trained in search and rescue techniques. All of the communities in our Primary Service Area benefit from having paramedics with this highly specialized training. They are thoroughly equipped for situations big and small, from a tornado or a bridge collapse to an "urban explorer" who gets injured climbing in an abandoned building and needs help.

Fall is also a time when we visit many of our communities as several of the cities host their annual open houses. This year we'll be at St. Louis Park, Excelsior, Hopkins and several more open houses meeting people in the community and showing them our state-of-the-art rigs and how we use them. Plus, we're planning to be at Trunk-or-Treat events in Richfield and Minneapolis Loring Park, which are always fun.

Finally, fall is an exciting time for sports. Hennepin EMS is the largest provider of EMS services for professional sports in the Twin Cities. This fall our crews have already been busy at U.S. Bank and Huntington Bank Stadium ensuring that both athletes and spectators are healthy and safe.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve these communities in any capacity, each and every day.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Martin Scheerer
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HEMS *BY THE NUMBERS*

Technical Rescue Medic Team

Hennepin EMS is actively working to grow a specialized team of paramedics – the Technical Rescue Medic (TRM) group. Currently, we have **4** paramedics on this team, all trained with advanced procedures for airway control, working in tight spaces, etc. All team members are also part of the state's Minnesota Task Force 1 (MNTF-1) Urban Search & Rescue team. The team undergoes **4** quarterly trainings with MNTF-1 plus **4** additional quarterly trainings internally with HEMS.

Since the TRM began in **2019**, we have responded to various types of calls including river bluff falls, construction trench entrapments and complicated vehicle extrications to name a few. In **2023** alone, the TRM has been a part of approximately **185** response calls thus far. In an effort to expand our capacity to serve patients who might find themselves in more complex rescue situations, we are currently adding more HEMS paramedics with an interest in this specialized type of response to the TRM team.



HEMS *IN THE COMMUNITY*



Photo credit: Bjorn Franke

Hennepin EMS is no stranger to sporting event support – that includes the University of Minnesota Golden Gopher Football team. HEMS provides paramedics for each home game at Huntington Bank Stadium, offering emergency support for the players, staff and fans. Look closely at this photo and you can see our two HEMS team members standing on the sidelines at the ready during the September 1 game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers.



The Minnesota Vikings kicked off the 2023 – 2024 regular season with a home game on September 10 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. As the EMS partner of U.S. Bank Stadium, HEMS supports the players, staff, volunteers and fans at all of the home Vikings games, including the pre-season schedule.



We're always excited about opportunities to share first responder techniques with young and curious minds. Earlier this month, Hennepin EMS conducted a hands-only CPR course for the Minneapolis Fire Explorers. This was an especially exciting class as it marked the return of the program after a hiatus due to the pandemic.



Photo credit: City of Lakes Half Marathon

Running events happen all year here in Minnesota, and especially in the fall! We supported the City of Lakes Half Marathon earlier this month, which routes around Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska. We're gearing up for one of the largest running events in the Twin Cities very soon. The Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon takes place on Sunday, October 1.



Photo credit: facebook.com/minnesothai

The MinnesoThai Culture and Food Festival in St. Louis Park was a multi-day event with an array of colors and flavors! It was one of many street festivals that Hennepin EMS has recently supported with crews present, such as the Open Streets series which hosted a handful of events throughout Minneapolis this summer.



Eden Prairie Fire, Police, and Hennepin EMS held multiple collaborative trainings this month to fine-tune our joint response in the event of a school-based tragedy. While we hope to never use this skillset, it's important that we, as first responders, stay prepared for any and all circumstances. The trainings took place at an Eden Prairie school outside of school hours. Collectively, our agencies practiced drills to stop an assailant, evacuate the scene quickly and treat/prioritize transport of patients. Special thanks to the volunteers who were willing to role play this scenario for our training needs.



Photo credit: St. Louis Park Fire Department

For the next few months, you'll see Hennepin EMS rigs outside of various fire departments, as part of annual "open house" events. Earlier this month, we were in St. Louis Park for their event at Fire Station 1. We love this opportunity to share what we do with community members, city officials and kids!



Hennepin EMS supports first responders in neighboring communities – and that includes during tough times that aren't related to the job. Recently, a captain in the Little Canada Fire Department lost his daughter in a tragic car accident. She was 19 years old and a collegiate hockey player. Members of Hennepin EMS signed a goalie stick with words of support for her family, which was presented to LCFD Chief Don Smiley to deliver to the family.

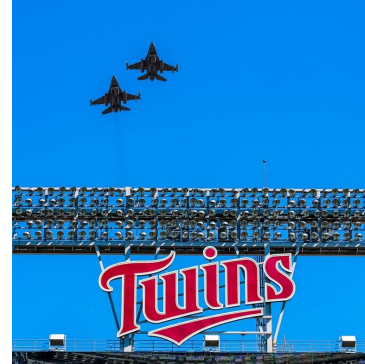


Photo credit: Minnesota Twins

Never forget. Hennepin EMS was proud to participate in a special Minnesota Twins pre-game ceremony honoring the first responders who died during the September 11 attacks. HEMS paramedic Mark Schoepfoerster placed a wreath for the eight EMS providers who died that day, as well as those who have succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses from their time working at Ground Zero.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We're excited to welcome Dr. Florian Merkle to our team as Hennepin Healthcare's newest EMS fellow. When he's on shift, Dr. Merkle is provided an EMS vehicle so that he can respond to emergency calls, supporting the HEMS team on the street and answering clinical questions on site. This is a unique role, and one that Dr. Merkle has enthusiastically embraced:



"I've spoken with HEMS medics who have come from other systems and say they never even met their medical directors at their old systems. It's very unique that HEMS has medical directors so available, visible and even out on calls. I'm stoked I get to work with really amazing medics – they are so good, they really are – and my goal for this year is to support them as much as possible."



SUCCESS STORIES

We received this note from a patient who was helped by two of our paramedics earlier this month. We always appreciate when we hear from patients so that we can celebrate the fine work of our team and a positive patient outcome:

“I had sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) last week (9/14 around 4pm) in Eden Prairie. The team of first responders, including Hennepin EMS, are the reason 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.”

