



THE HEMS *DISPATCH*



February was a tough month, as our state mourned the three first responders who died in the line of duty. The tragic loss of Burnsville Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth and Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge is a sobering reminder of the risks all first responders face when we are on the job. While the safety of our team is always our first priority, we all know that calls can escalate to worst-case scenarios at any given time.

And yet, first responders show up to their job and answer these calls, time after time, day after day. It speaks to the passion we have for what we do: providing help to our fellow humans in their time of need. As we work through the shock and grief from these recent events, we stand with each other, united in our commitment to serve others and our communities.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the families, colleagues, and loved ones of our fallen brothers.

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HEMS *BY THE NUMBERS*



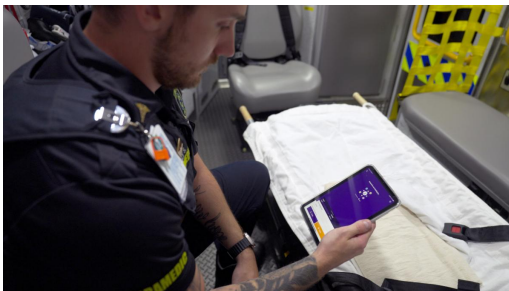
Photo credit: Nicole Geri

Hennepin Healthcare is officially the “the top employer in downtown Minneapolis.”

According to recent data from the [Minneapolis Downtown Council](#), Hennepin Healthcare employs **7,208** people downtown. This bumps down the previous top employer, Target, to the number two spot with **7,100** downtown workers. Meanwhile, the council also noted that in 2023, the population in downtown Minneapolis inched up **2.9%** to **58,409** residents.



HEMS IN THE NEWS



Deputy Chief of Operations Charles Sloan III shared the recent success HEMS has experienced with the translator app, Jeenie, which has increased our capabilities to offer equitable and inclusive care. An article he wrote is published on [EMS1.com](#), an online resource for the EMS community and an authoritative voice in pre-hospital care.



Battalion Chief of Special Operations Tyler Lupkes participated in an in-depth [story on WCCO 4 News](#) featuring members of the Regional Response Board, which brings together Hennepin County agencies to prepare for an active threat in the community.



HEMS IN THE COMMUNITY



Photo credit: Monster Jam

Minnesota motorsports fans enjoyed the return of Monster Jam, a monster truck rally that took place at U.S. Bank Stadium Feb. 17 and 18. The event draws families from all over the state to watch 12,000-pound Monster Jam trucks push all limits in freestyle, skills, donuts and racing competitions. As the EMS partner of U.S. Bank Stadium, the Hennepin EMS special events team was on hand for any medical emergencies.

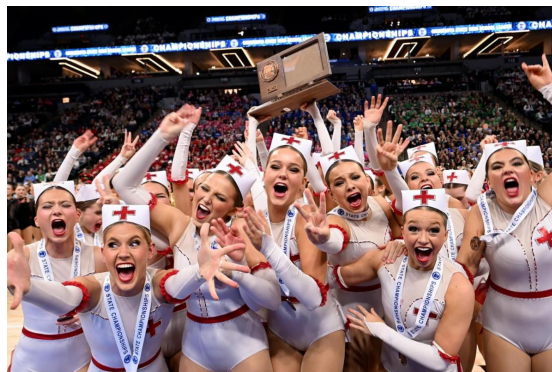


Photo credit: Alyssa Kristine

The Minnesota State High School League held the State Dance Tournament at Target Center. Athleticism and school spirit were on top display! Our EMS staff was on standby at the event for dancers, fans and staff. Special congrats to PSA community school Benilde-St. Margaret's team for their third-place finish in high kick and first-place championship in jazz dance!



Minnesota's Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) took to the ice at Mariucci Arena for a game against Toronto on Feb. 27. HEMS offered EMS support at the event. *Photo credit: PWHL*

Collaboration:

Hennepin Healthcare recently hosted its annual EMS Update, a daylong conference covering the latest in pre-hospital care information and strategies. Several Hennepin EMS team members presented at the conference, including EMS Medical Director Dr. Nick Simpson and Dr. Tim Kummer. The conference, which is open to all EMS professionals, drew nearly 400 attendees, including several industry colleagues from our partner agencies around the Twin Cities.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Hennepin EMS welcomed six paramedics, two EMTs and one EMT/EMD to the ranks with a badging ceremony Thursday, Feb. 22. Congrats to everyone on completing probation and fully joining the HEMS team!

- Cara Chilton – EMT
- Emma Peterson – EMT
- Holly Peterson – EMT/EMD
- Alexander Flores - Paramedic
- Eric Ward – Paramedic
- Daniel Goossens – Paramedic
- Paul Morrison – Paramedic
- Erin Merrill – Paramedic
- Savannah Everett – Paramedic



SUCCESS STORIES

It's not very often that we hear from patients after we have taken care of them. But it is incredibly meaningful when we do.

Earlier this month, a patient mailed a card to one of our HEMS EMTs, noting the following:

"To the EMT that worked on me when I had the motorcycle accident on July 22, 2023 in the evening time around 10:00pm.

Thank you for everything that you did that night to keep me alive. If it wasn't for you I don't think I would be alive today, and I want you to know that all that you did to keep me alive was not a waste because it has given me a new and positive outlook on life."

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Header image photo credit: Mike Yungers