



THE HEMS DISPATCH



We're officially halfway through the 2024 calendar, it's with great pride that I share Hennepin EMS has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB). The EMSRB is the statewide agency responsible for regulating ambulance services in Minnesota. This recognition is based on emergency medical services exceeding 80% performance rates in five performance measures in 2024, including:

- Stroke encounters with Documented Blood Glucose: 95%
- Pediatric Encounters Resulting in Medication Administration that had Weight Documented: 99%
- Respiratory Encounters with Documented Respiratory Assessment: 91% Trauma Patients with Documented Pain Assessment: 95%
- Pediatric Asthma Encounters with Documented Beta Agonist Administration: 85%

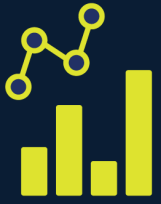
We're honored to be recognized for excelling in these areas, and we'll continue to improve response in other areas.

Finally, on a more somber note, we want to acknowledge how difficult June was for first responders, especially those in the Minneapolis Police Department. The loss of Officer Jamal Mitchell was felt by many, and we send our condolences to those who served with him and loved him.

Martin Scheerer
EMS Chief – Sr. Director of EMS, Hennepin EMS
Martin.Scheerer@hcmcd.org | 952-292-6555



**Subscribe to the
digital edition
of the Hennepin
EMS Dispatch!**



HEMS

BY THE NUMBERS

Supporting area events is one of the many services that HEMS provides to residents of and visitors to the **13** communities of our Hennepin County primary service area. In June alone, our Special Operations division of paramedics and EMTs served **58** events at **17** different locations, from Twins games and Morgan Wallen's concert to local Pride festivals and several suburban high school graduation ceremonies at US Bank Stadium and Target Center.

The frequency and significance of our response is influenced by several factors: the size of the event, weather and environmental factors specifically high temperatures, and the presence of alcohol. For example, at an average community event like a cultural festival we may only respond to **a few** calls for assistance, fewer if alcohol is not served. At sporting events and big concerts, over **30** responses are likely. The most common incidents are slips, trips and falls particularly down steep stairs, intoxication, and heat-related emergencies in the summer. In much more rare but serious incidents, we have responded to chest pain, asthma, head injuries from serious falls, acute intoxication and the need for aspiration, and even, one time, a partial foot amputation at a concert.

It's important for the communities we serve to know that HEMS is there to keep you healthy and safe. We are a direct connection back to 911 emergency response and the expertise that might be needed from our team at Hennepin Healthcare.





HEMS

IN THE COMMUNITY



Summer concerts are in full swing! HEMS will be at a number of venues throughout the coming weeks, and recently staffed two nights of performances from country musician Morgan Wallen at U.S. Bank Stadium.



The Twin Cities Pride Festival is Minnesota's second largest festival (only after the State Fair) and the largest free Pride festival in the United States celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community. With several events taking place in both St. Paul and Minneapolis, Hennepin EMS is offering medical support to festival attendees and volunteers. In addition to the festival in Loring Park, we offered EMS support at the Rainbow Run 5K and the annual Pride Parade. HEMS also supported medical needs at Family Fun Day at the Como Pavilion in St. Paul.



We're excited to be back providing EMS support at Minnesota Lynx games! The team is already off to a great start this season. With the Lynx playing at Target Center, we will have EMS staff at all home games.

With the Summer Olympic Games just weeks away from the opening ceremony in Paris, we are eager to see who makes Team USA! The USA Olympic Team Trials for Gymnastics is taking place June 27 – 30 in Minneapolis. Hennepin EMS is providing service as needed to athletes, fans, event staff and volunteers.

Hennepin EMS provides coverage for many professional sporting events, but also occasionally for youth sports! Earlier this month, we were in Eden Prairie for a weekend baseball tournament attracting some great competition.



Photo credit: Minnetonka Schools

It was our honor to act as EMS for some local high school graduation ceremonies, including Minnetonka High School. Congrats to the class of 2024 on reaching this milestone!



HEMS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We had 19 Pathways graduates walk across the stage on June 14 at the Minnesota Firefighters Museum in Minneapolis. These graduates obtained their EMT certificate, which opens them up to a variety of first responder job opportunities. The goal of this program, which is done in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Fire, is to fill more first responder jobs with qualified candidates

that reflect the multilingual and culturally diverse communities we serve. Graduates of our Pathways program have been successfully hired as Minneapolis firefighters, Hennepin EMS dispatchers, and into the Hennepin EMS trainee program, ultimately becoming HEMS paramedics.



Congratulations to Dr. Florian Merkle for completing his fellowship at Hennepin EMS. On Thursday, June 27, we presented him with a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment. We've greatly appreciated his contributions to the organization and we wish Dr. Merkle the best as he heads to Ohio for a new position.



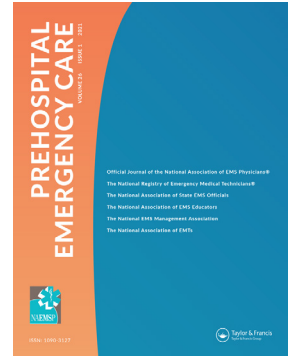
On June 13, we celebrated eight paramedics and one dispatcher (not pictured) in a badging ceremony for our Paramedic Trainee Academy. We're excited to watch these individuals grow in their careers here at HEMS!

We are in the final month of our PSA suburban fire training. We'll be finishing up with the Excelsior and Minnetonka Fire Departments. During these trainings, we replicate conditions as closely as possible for effective initial EMS care and then transfers. Our training population includes a combination of both career and paid-on-call firefighters. We also bring in our state-of-the-art simulation ambulance, which is identical to our actual ambulances. Known as the Sim-Ambulance, it incorporates high-fidelity mannequins, cardiac monitors and real, working equipment to provide hands-on, immersive scenario-based training.



HEMS COLLABORATION

Hennepin EMS has been featured in two recent articles in the peer-reviewed Prehospital Emergency Care Journal. The first is a case report describing a patient who had a toxic ingestion. It goes in depth to explain why Hennepin EMS now carries a very specific antidote called Methylene Blue for Sodium Nitrate poisonings. To our knowledge, this is the first description of an EMS service carrying this medication to treat this condition.



The second recent article is a description of our use of oral medication (i.e. Risperidone) to treat mild agitation. Previously, all medications to treat agitation were given IV or via injection. Hennepin EMS has been using oral Risperidone to treat prehospital agitation for the last several years. It is in line with numerous best practice statements like Best Practices in Evaluation and Treatment of Agitation, called Project BETA which is a multi-disciplinary group of Emergency and Psychiatry professionals. This again, is to our knowledge the first description of an EMS service utilizing oral medications to treat mild agitation.

As we continue to expand our response to the opioid epidemic, Drs. Kummer and Simpson were able to collaborate with local leaders in this space as well representatives from Bridge to Treatment (formerly California Bridge). We talked through the current efforts towards harm reduction including Naloxone leave-behind kits & Fentanyl Test strips in every ambulance. Also, there was some great collaboration surrounding prehospital Suboxone induction. At Hennepin EMS, we have now provided over 125 prehospital inductions, which allow patients to initiate treatment for opioid use disorder before they even set foot in a hospital.



HEMS SUCCESS STORIES



On June 14, HEMS dispatcher, Greg Hartquist, helped talk through the Minnesota State Patrol on the delivery of a baby on the side of Highway 100. The baby boy and his mother are both happy and healthy!

