

# Village Ambulance Service 2010 Spring Newsletter



Photo by  
Art Sachs

## EMS News

Just how effective are EMS providers in Massachusetts? For the first time, the state will soon have data to help answer that question. Massachusetts is instituting data collection standards for all EMS providers as a means to evaluate and compare the effectiveness of its emergency medical services statewide. The state's proposed system, based on the National EMS Information System (NEMIS), is similar to data collection systems already in place in most states across the country.

The real value of any data collected is the knowledge revealed in its analysis. The potential for Massachusetts and its EMS providers to uncover opportunities for improving practices that enhance patient care while simultaneously reducing costs to deliver this care could be significant.

The proposed Massachusetts Ambulance Trip Record Information System (MATRIS) will allow more than 460 data points to be collected directly from ambulances and fire trucks.

The state plans to begin the pilot phase of this data collection program this year.

To learn more about potential EMS Agency Reports under the NEMIS system, see <http://www.nemsis.org/nemsisReporting/emsAgencyReporting.html>

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the fourth installment of the Village Ambulance Service EMS & Community Awareness newsletter. This publication is aimed at keeping you updated on the progress of Emergency Medical Services in Berkshire County.

## Employee Spotlight



### Angela Swistak

#### EMT-Basic

The Employee Spotlight is one way to showcase the above and beyond performance of our team members. Take a moment to review the accomplishments this employee has achieved.

Angela Swistak started her EMS career in 2009 after successfully completing Village Ambulance Service's inaugural EMT-Basic program in February of the same year.

Although employed full-time by Village Ambulance Service, Angela has found time to complete the American Heart Association CPR Instructor Program as well as assist as



a lab instructor in our current EMT-Basic program. Angela is set to begin teaching CPR and First Aid independently and hopes to one day start a training business of her own.

According to the daughter of one of her patients:

"Angela is a wonderful EMT. She is very caring and looked out for my mother's best interest during her ride to the hospital."

Village Ambulance Service couldn't agree more.

# Training Section

## Village Ambulance Service has teamed up with Jones & Bartlett Publishers to launch online (Hybrid) EMT-Basic course

Village Ambulance Service's Hybrid EMT-Basic program, approved by the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services and the first of its kind in western Massachusetts, is a blend of online learning with face-to-face instruction.

In our hybrid course, the entire didactic portion of the program is done online and as a result, the amount of face-to-face time is used for practical skills training only. For example, when the course begins, students will meet with their instructors and classmates only one day a week for the practical skills or "hands-on" sessions and do the classroom assignments on their own from home using a computer and the Internet.

Using the Jones & Bartlett Course Manager, through Moodle's Learning Management System (LMS), instruction for our Hybrid EMT-Basic course is delivered through media (PowerPoints, videos, links, and audio technology) and the Internet. Our course also has an online discussion board and live chat feature for enhanced interaction between the instructors and students.

Village Ambulance Service is excited to add this online gateway to its already long list of successful community education and training programs. The service expects to launch their first hybrid EMT-Basic course in Fall 2010.

## Spring 2010 Continuing Education

**Note: All classes will be held at the Spruces Recreational Center, Rte 2, Williamstown unless otherwise specified.**

### Thursday, April 22nd

6pm to 9pm

#### **S.M.A.R.T. Triage Tag Program**

Instructor: Shawn Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C  
3 credits pending (B/I/P)

### Saturday, May 8th

10am to 4pm

#### **Paramedic/Basic Assist Program**

Instructor: Village Ambulance Faculty  
6 credits pending (B/I only)

For more information on the classes listed here or any other Village Ambulance Service sponsored program, please contact our office at 413-458-4889 or visit our website: [www.villageambulance.com](http://www.villageambulance.com)

## Traditional EMT-Basic Program

### Fall 2010 EMT-BASIC PROGRAM

Sweetwood Retirement Center  
Rte 7, Williamstown, MA

September 2, 2010 thru December 11, 2010

#### **Monday & Thursday Nights**

**6:00pm – 10:00pm**

**Every other Saturday from 9am – 3pm**

**Program Cost: \$750.00**

(\$250.00 non-refundable deposit with application; \$500.00 due first night of class)

(Cash, Money Order, Bank Check or Agency Check Accepted)

For more information or to obtain an application packet, please visit our website at [www.villageambulance.com](http://www.villageambulance.com) click on **Training** then **EMT-Basic**

## Village Ambulance Service Starts EMS Explorer Post in Berkshire County



Are you a teen trying to find what you would like to do in life? Are you a parent of this teen? Have an interest in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) but don't know where to begin? Are you between the ages of 14 and 20 years old and a resident of Berkshire County? Well, you're in luck because we have the answers to these questions.

Through the National Learning for Life Foundation, an extension of the Boy Scouts of America, Village Ambulance Service's Explorer Post #911 is a program that introduces area youth to the EMS trade. Using Village Ambulance Service volunteer personnel, we create practical drills and situations for the participants to learn from. Our Explorers are given opportunities to train in a similar fashion as real-life Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) with the emphasis on building and enhancing teamwork, social and overall life skills.

The post is a youth-led organization. The youth officers are elected and activities are planned and implemented based on the resources of the organization as well as input from adult committee members, parents, and consultants. Each Explorer starts the post on a six month probationary period in order to learn the post's schedule, policies and procedures, bylaws, and overall expectations of the program.

For enrollment information, please call our office at 413-458-4889.

## Spring Safety Tip

*Is there a need to be safe during the spring months?*

Definitely! With spring comes the spring melt which causes rising rivers because of the snowfall from the winter that just passed.

Rising rivers are a real danger. I have heard a lot of stories about children that have played too close to a river's edge and then got swooped in by the rushing waters. The water in a river is just so powerful.

It is not just the rushing waters that cause the danger either. The water in the rivers is cold which can cause hypothermia. If you live in a mountainous region where you have glaciers, the water will even be colder.

So, here are 5 ways that we can stay safe during the spring months:

1. Do not let your children play near a river's edge.
2. Keep animals and livestock away from a river's edge.
3. Keep away from a river's edge yourself.
4. If you live near a river it is best to place sandbags at the edge of it to protect your home.
5. Always have a plan of action in case of flooding, for instance, knowing someone with a boat.

*Article borrowed from Hubpages.com  
<http://hubpages.com/hub/Spring-Safety-Tips>  
By dwilliamson*

## 2010 Blood Drive

The 2010 Village Ambulance Blood Drive, sponsored in conjunction with the American Red Cross and First Methodist Church, Williamstown, garnered 75 productive donors! The drive ran on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from Noon to 5pm.



According to a Red Cross Recruitment Representative, "the drive had 85 people registered to donate and 75 of them were productive donors. The goal for the drive was 55. We are excited to be well above the target number."

Village Ambulance Service wishes to thank all who donated.

# EMS Week 2010

May 16-22, 2010



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week is a week of celebration dedicated to the achievements of the men and women on the front lines within the EMS community. These men and women are first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency medical dispatchers delivering life saving skills to the sick and injured every day.

With advances in modern technology, exciting new medical procedures, and dedication to countless hours of skilled training, the emergency medical system is capable of providing essential life saving skills and treatment.

Village Ambulance Service will be providing many educational and entertaining events within the community during EMS Week.

We encourage everyone, both young and old to come out and participate throughout the week.

Emergency Medical Services of Berkshire County  
Is pleased to announce the

## **Berkshire County EMS Expo 2010**

Saturday

May 15, 2010

10 AM – 4 PM

Berkshire Mall

Rte 7/Lanesborough

*Come see your local EMS providers in action!*