Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services

Annual Report 2004

Proudly Serving the Lehigh Community
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Executive Message

March 1, 2005

To the Lehigh Community:

Lehigh University EMS (LUEMS) is proud to provide emergency medical response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year to the Lehigh Community. We are a first line of response providing a vital link between first responders and the City of Bethlehem paramedics. During the year 2004, Lehigh EMS experienced tremendous growth both in membership as well as the services that we are able to provide to our patients. I am proud to say that this growth has left Lehigh EMS well positioned to continue in its function to the University for the foreseeable future.

Lehigh EMS operates under the supervision of and works closely with the Lehigh University Police Department to provide the best possible care to the University. We receive funding from the Police Department as well as through the Student Senate. In addition, numerous other offices such as the Dean of Students, provide financial resources for various items throughout the year. This allows us to provide our services free of charge to the Lehigh University Community. We also derive revenue for standby services at large University events such as Sundaze, Greek Week, as well as smaller club events such as club rugby.

A large portion of Lehigh EMS’s growth in the part year is due to the purchase of a 2000 Ford Expedition. The purchase was a team effort among departments so numerous to list who provided the resources necessary to help make this new vehicle a reality. The vehicle has been a moving advertisement since its inception increasing awareness of our service on campus, as well as attracting new members. This is seen through the twelve students currently enrolled in Northampton Community College’s EMT program in the Spring of 2005. In addition, call volume increased 25% over the previous fall semester, and 15% over the previous spring semester.

Lehigh EMS is positioned for another strong year in 2005. We anticipate making changes to the service we provide through increased education opportunities to our members, as well as the Lehigh Community through numerous community outreach programs. In the coming year, we hope to make the campuses of Lehigh University a Heart Safe Community, as well as provide educational opportunities for student through large events coordinated with other major University groups.

We would like to thank Chief Edward Shupp, Detective Christopher Houtz and all the officers of the Lehigh University Police Department for their constant support and advocacy of our service. Without their continued support, our growth and success would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Malinowski, EMT-B
Captain, Lehigh University EMS
MISSION:

The purpose of this organization shall be to aid and benefit humanity whenever and wherever required; to answer emergency calls; provide emergency care; render aid to the sick, injured, and disabled; and to save life regardless of race, color, or creed.
Serving the Community through Dependable Emergency Care

Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services (LUEMS) exists to provide emergency medical care at the EMT-Basic level, without cost, to the students, faculty, staff and community, which comprise the Lehigh family. This service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, during the academic year. LUEMS is completely student run and all volunteer. We are overseen and work closely with the University Police Department.

Lehigh EMS is a BLS QRS (Basic Life Support, Quick Response Service). We do not transport our patients; we assess and treat them before transferring patient care to the City of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Township paramedics (ALS). Typically, our response times vary from 1 to 3 minutes whereas the City of Bethlehem units require more time. In the EMS industry, healthcare providers strive for the “Platinum Ten,” the term referring to the first (and most critical) ten minutes after an emergency. With a much more rapid response time, Lehigh EMS is often able to assess and stabilize the patient prior to paramedic arrival.

In addition to the daily services provided, Lehigh EMS responds to numerous calls at special events on campus. These are events that Lehigh EMS has been contracted to provide standby service for the safety of the Lehigh community and its visitors. In general, Lehigh EMS staffs sporting and University events such as: rugby and other high-risk sports, Sundaze and other UP events, Greek Week events, etc.

The Lehigh EMS squad is divided into three levels of membership to ensure quality service to the community. With a focus on skill and leadership development, each level has defined requirements and members ascend only through the approval of the Crew Chiefs. The first level of membership is classified as “observer.” These members are non-EMT’s or EMT’s in training who may only treat patients under the direct supervision of a high level member. The second is the on-call “EMT,” who is permitted to respond to emergencies and treat the patient alone or with other Lehigh EMS personnel. Finally, the third level of membership consist of the “Crew Chiefs” who respond with EMT/Observers and are ultimately responsible for the actions and safety of other Lehigh EMS members while the crew is responding.

![Call Volume Trends 1992 - 2004](image-url)
Call Nature

- Abdominal Pain: 2%
- Alcohol Related - No symptoms: 17%
- Weakness: 4%
- Allergic Reaction: 2%
- Athletic Injury: 3%
- Bleeding: 5%
- Psychiatric: 3%
- Difficulty Breathing: 4%
- Dizziness: 9%
- Allergic Reaction: 2%
- Weakness: 4%
- Unconscious: 4%
- Nausea: 9%
- Abdominal Pain: 2%

Call Location

- Undergraduate Housing: 41%
- Roadway: 19%
- Saucon Village: 1%
- Sorority: 2%
- Goodman Campus: 6%
- Fraternity: 4%
- Administrative Building: 6%
- Lehigh Police Dept.: 7%
- Outdoor-Non Roadway: 2%

Call Breakdown

- Alcohol Related: 39%
- Not Alcohol Related: 61%
Serving the Lehigh Community through Improved Efficiency

In the past, Lehigh EMS had responded to emergency dispatches on foot or by personal vehicles operated by Lehigh EMS members. Recently (Fall 2003), financially aided by various departments, Lehigh EMS purchased a 2000 Ford Expedition to improve response time and to transport the necessary EMS equipment needed to provide high quality patient care.

Since the acquisition of the Expedition, the vehicle has been detailed, equipped, and certified by the Pennsylvanian Eastern EMS Council as a Pennsylvanian Non-Transporting Quick Response Vehicle. Additional equipment, including oxygen tanks, burn kits, and other equipment has also been installed. Plans are in place for intensive driver training during Fall 2005. At present, the equipment carried on the truck is as comprehensive as the inventory found on most BLS ambulances.
Serving the Lehigh Community through Education

Committed to a higher quality of emergency care, Lehigh EMS also has initiatives to educate both the community and its members on a continual basis.

In conjunction with Northampton Community College, Lehigh EMS offers an EMT-Basic level class (6 credit equivalent) on Northampton’s campus free of charge each semester. This current semester, twelve Lehigh students are enrolled in the course. First-years and sophomores are often given priority because they are more likely to contribute after the course but juniors and seniors can also enroll.

Lehigh EMS also focuses on furthering education internally; a few American Heart Association and American Health and Safety Institute certified CPR/First Aid instructors also serve as EMT’s within Lehigh EMS. Though these instructors and a resident assigned to the organization by St. Luke’s Trauma Center, members improve their patient interview skills through scenarios and drills. In addition, ride-alongs with Bethlehem EMS, Bethlehem Township EMS and attendance at ER clinical shifts and rounds are available and encouraged.

In addition, in conjunction with requirements by the Eastern Pennsylvania EMS Council, Lehigh EMS participates in a Quality Improvement program to better the care delivered by individual members. Each call report is reviewed by the Captain to ensure proper procedures were followed and the patient was provided with the best possible care. Positives and weaknesses are noted to the individual in a confidential setting to help the EMT improve their patient care.

Lehigh EMS also provides CPR/First Aid training to various departments on request. This training is available at nominal charge with all revenue going towards bettering the organization.
Strategic Plan for 2005-2006

FALL 2005

- Obtain EPI-PEN certification from the State of Pennsylvania to carry the important lifesaving drug on our response vehicle
- Hold large scale campus event to show the effects of DUI
- Increase participation in large campus events, especially athletics
- Provide community level CPR classes open to everyone

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Spring 2006

- Help to make Lehigh a heart safe community
- Investigate possibility of providing services 365 days a year
- Maintain strong presence of Lehigh EMS at Northampton Country EMT Course
How does Lehigh EMS compare to squads at peer institutions?

Within the past few years, Lehigh EMS has become involved with the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF). Lehigh EMS attended the NCEMSF conference for the first time in its 14 year history during February 2005 with a strong delegation of 8 members. Through our interactions with peer institutions, the organization has gained tremendous ideas of how to further the organization as a whole.

Lehigh EMS has tremendous opportunity for growth in the coming years that can be seen through the achievements of many of our peer institutions:

**Villanova University:** Villanova EMS provides coverage 365 days a year to the Villanova University community and the surrounding towns. They operate three vehicles, two of which are transporting Basic Life Support ambulances. Their revenue is generated through numerous standbys at athletic events, graduation, and concerts.

**Duke University:** Duke EMS provides coverage 365 days a year to the Duke University community with expansion planned to cover the surrounding communities. Duke operates a 2004 Chevy Trailblazer as a Quick Response vehicle.

**Muhlenberg College:** Muhlenberg College operates 24/7 during the school year with one 2002 Chevy Blazer and multiple bike units. In addition, they use the services of a golf cart at standby events. They operate a Pennsylvania Quick Response Service identical to the certification that Lehigh EMS has.
Lehigh EMS Management and Advisors

2005 Executive Board

Captain
Lieutenant-Training/Operations
Lieutenant-Administrative
Past Captain
Treasurer
Secretary

Jason Malinowski, EMT-B
Stephen Lewis, EMT-B
Mark Zakutansky, EMT-B
Eric Sze, EMT-B
Ashish Kapila, EMT-B
Bhumi Patel

2004 Executive Board

Captain
Lieutenant-Training/Operations
Lieutenant-Administrative
Treasurer
Secretary

Eric Sze, EMT-B
Jason Malinowski, EMT-B
David Lowery, EMT-B
Alex Senchak, EMT-B
Ashish Kapila, EMT-B

Lehigh University Police Department Advisors:
Chief Edward Shupp (Chief of Police)
Detective Christopher Houtz, EMT-B (Lehigh EMS Advisor)

Medical Director:
John Patterson, MD (St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, PA)

Industry Professionals and Advisors:
William Guth, EMT-P (City of Bethlehem EMS)

Lehigh EMS in the News

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Lehigh EMS Roster
(As of December 2004)

Jason Malinowski, Captain, EMT-B
Stephen Lewis, Lieutenant, EMT-B
Mark Zakutansky, Lieutenant, EMT-B
Eric Sze, Past Captain, EMT-B
Ashish Kapila, Treasurer, EMT-B
Bhumi Patel, Secretary
Sean Nanavati, Crew Chief, EMT-B
David Lowery, Crew Chief, EMT-B
Alexander Senchak, Crew Chief, EMT-B
Tyler Espenlaub, EMT-B
Vera Partem, EMT-B
Josh Grossman, EMT-B
Aalok Shah, Observer
Alexander Bruner, Observer
Andrew Stewart, Observer
Brett Moses, Observer
Christina Hajicharalambous, Observer
Danni Wang, Observer
Frank Fabris, Observer
Jim Devery, Observer
Jason Zeller, Observer
Katrina Cokleski, Observer
Kumar Shah, Observer
Lauren Bacigalupo, Observer
Priya Iyer, Observer
Reid Gronostajski, Observer
Stefan Gentsch, Observer
Claire Rothstein, Observer
Racine Henry, Observer

Interested in supporting Lehigh EMS?
Make a tax-deductible donation to our organization.

Please make checks payable to Lehigh University EMS and designate as a contribution. Checks can be mailed to Student Accounts at the Ulrich Student Center, 39 University Drive.

http://www.lehigh.edu/~inluems