

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Annual Report 2005

Proudly Serving the Lehigh Community

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Front Cover: Lt. Mark Zakutansky, Crew Chiefs Alex Senchak and Ashish Kapila backboard a patient after extricating her from a motor vehicle.

Executive Message February 1, 2006

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 police first responders and the City of Bethlehem paramedics. In 2005, Lehigh EMS saw by far and away its most successful year in all parts of our operation.

Lehigh EMS responded to 248 calls for help during the year 2005, an almost 25 % increase in calls from just the previous year. These calls ranged from minor medical emergencies such as a twisted ankle to life threatening emergencies which required assisted respirations (see breakdown later in the report).

A 25 % spike in call volume is unheard of in the EMS industry. It would not have been possible to handle this increase in emergency calls without the dramatic increase in membership that was experienced in 2005. On January 1, 2005, Lehigh EMS had 26 active members, of which only 10 were certified EMTs. Currently, we have 54 active members, of which 24 are certified EMTs. In addition, there are currently 15 other members enrolled in Northampton Community College's EMT program.

In addition to our increased call response, Lehigh EMS has become far more active in the community. Numerous CPR courses have been offered to the Lehigh community at little to no charge. A mock DUI event was held in conjunction with the Student Senate and Inter-fraternity Council during Drunk Driving Awareness Week in November. In addition, Lehigh EMS provided medical coverage at all Lehigh Hockey home games, as well as assisted other EMS agencies at all home football games.

As we enter a new year, Lehigh EMS is poised to continue its tremendous growth and hopes to become even more active group on campus. I hope you find this report very educational on the vital role that Lehigh EMS plays on the Lehigh campus every day.

We would like to thank our advisors, Chief Edward Shupp and Sergeant Christopher Houtz of the Lehigh University Police Department for their continued strong support of our organization and its members to help us reach and exceed our goals for the year 2005. On a personal note, as I enter my last semester as Captain of Lehigh EMS, I would like to thank all the members of Lehigh EMS, especially the three executive boards I have served with, as well as the entire Lehigh Police Department for their overwhelming support throughout the years. It has certainly been a tremendous experience and one I never will forget.

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.

Lehigh University EMS: General Operations

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 by, 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 for which 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, and Greek Week events.

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 a certified Pennsylvania EMT that 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. All of the Crew Chiefs have significant outside EMS experience and are all current members of other EMS organizations who provide transport services via ambulance.



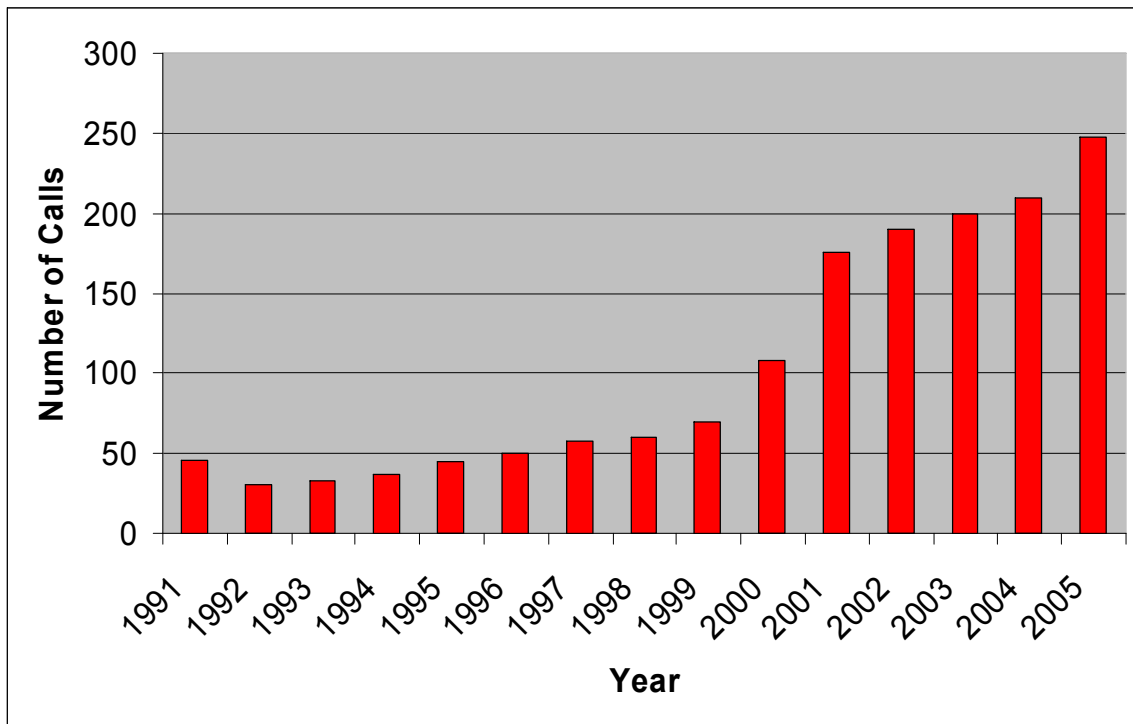
(Left to Right: Lt. Mark Zakutansky, Capt. Jason Malinowski and EMT Ashish Kapila load a patient into the back of an awaiting Bethlehem EMS ambulance.)

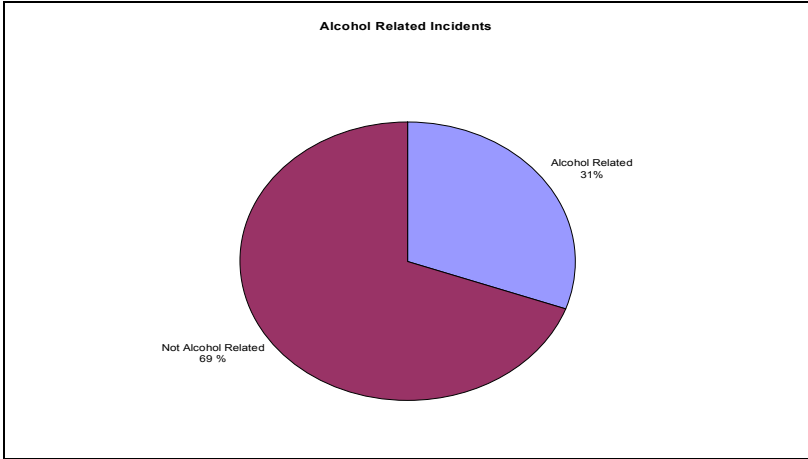
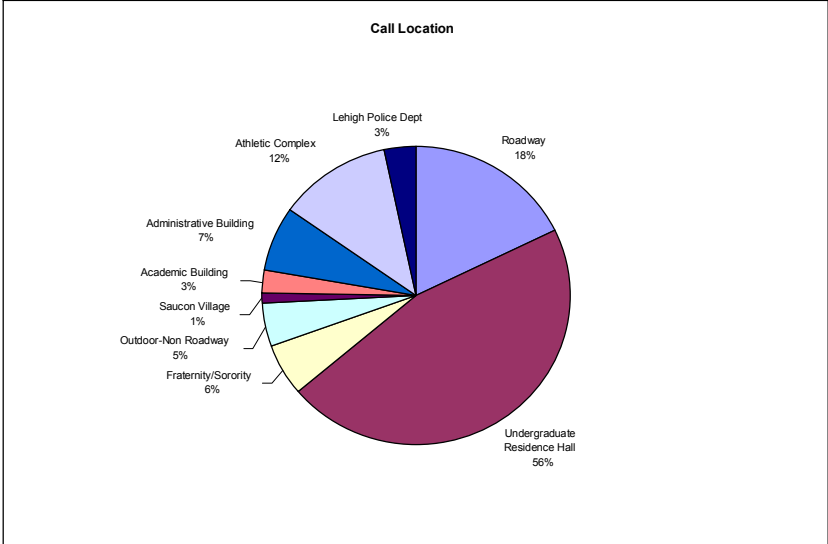
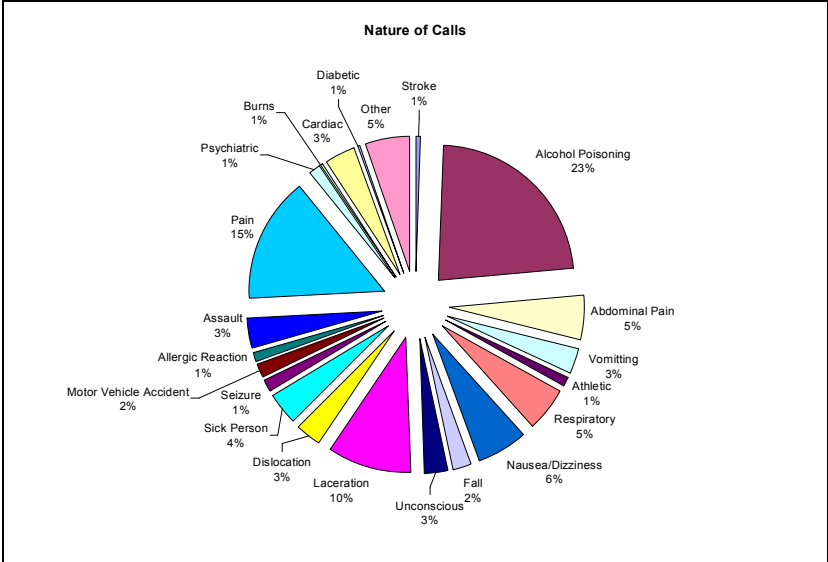
The Increase in Call Volume

With an unchanged overall college population, one may wonder how the call volume could increase so much during the current year. We contribute the increase to two factors: an increased presence on the campus and an increased presence at larger university events.

During the year, Lehigh EMS has taken numerous measures to make the campus community aware of our services that are available free of charge. In the past, many community members were not aware of the role and function of Lehigh EMS and therefore did not necessarily phone for immediate help. Through various lectures at fraternity houses and community groups such as gryphons, we feel our message and service are known widely across the campus. Efforts will continue through the coming years to keep this message widely known.

In addition, our presence at numerous large campus events has contributed to our increase in call volume. Lehigh EMS provided our services to all Greek Week events, varsity hockey games, varsity football games, as well as numerous other campus wide events. With the large crowds that these events attract, the amount of injuries increase, and our crews were there ready to respond.





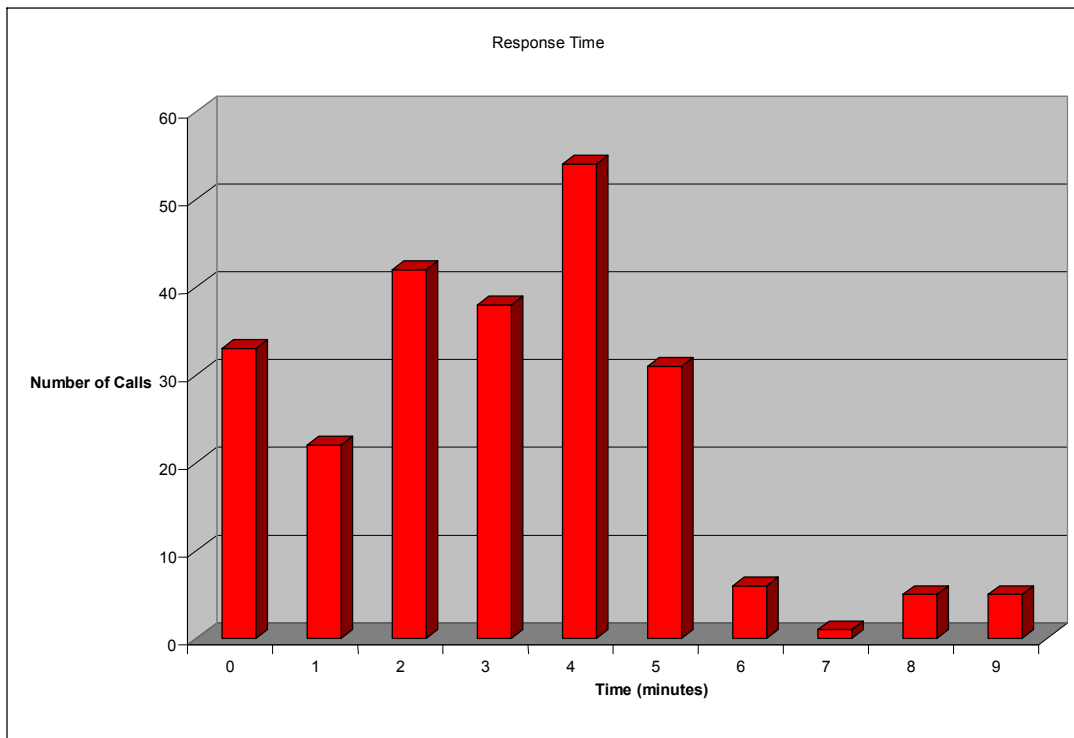
Quick Response Times

As a licensed Quick Response Service (QRS), Lehigh EMS does everything within its powers to provide the quickest possible response to the medical emergencies on the Lehigh campus. During the year 2005, our average response time has decreased dramatically.

In mid-2005, Lehigh EMS partnered with the University Police Dept. to find a way to simplify the dispatch procedures of EMS crew members. A new one-touch dispatch system was developed in order to allow the police dispatcher to dispatch police and EMS units at the same. This new system alone has shaved at least a minute off the response times of EMS crews to each emergency call.

With the advent of cell phones, many individuals use these devices to call for emergency help instead of relying on the traditional land line phones. A disadvantage of this, however, is that many 911 calls do not go to the closest jurisdiction, in addition to the fact that the dispatcher is not able to trace the location of the caller. When a cell phone caller dials 911 on Lehigh's campus, it is usually routed directly to the City of Bethlehem 911 center, which obviously delays the response of Lehigh's police and EMS units. Realizing this problem, Lehigh EMS has kept an open line of communication and dialogue with the City of Bethlehem paramedics and are constantly revising protocols to enable the quickest possible of both Lehigh and Bethlehem emergency units.

In 2004, Lehigh EMS responded to 25 % of calls in less than 2 minutes. In 2005, however, approximately 37 % of our calls for help resulted in response times of less than 2 minutes. We take great pride in this increase, especially considering the size of Lehigh's three campuses.



Increased Educational Opportunities for Members

Two major initiatives began in 2005 to significantly increase the experience and proficiency of individual Lehigh EMS members to ensure that the best possible care is provided to those in need.

In partnership with our Medical Director, Dr. John Patterson from St. Lukes Trauma Center in Bethlehem, PA, Lehigh EMS has an ER resident assigned to assist with training. This year, we have been fortunate to have Sharon Jacob, DO present a topic of interest to our EMTs at almost every monthly meeting. Training has ranged from EPI-Pen training, to how to properly deal with alcohol related emergencies, trauma assessment, and skills reviews. Dr. Jacob previously served as a paramedic in Baltimore County, Maryland which allows her to better assist our members in meeting specific protocols determined by the state. This program has since expanded with numerous residents now attending monthly meetings and assisting with training. In addition, she reviews every EMS call report that is written after any emergency call. This is certainly no small task, with almost 250 to review per year. Comments from this review are sent to the EMTs on the call to ensure a continual improvement program. These call reports are also all reviewed by the Captain, thereby ensuring that every call is reviewed by at least two people.

As noted above, members received training in the use of epinephrine auto injectors at our first meeting in September. Epinephrine is a life-saving drug used to reverse the effects of severe allergic reactions. Immediate administration of this drug is necessary in emergency situations in order to stabilize a patient to make it to the hospital. Dr. Jacob conducted this training and helped the line officers of our organization develop specific protocols to manage the administration of the program. Shortly thereafter, the State of Pennsylvania officially certified Lehigh EMS to carry epinephrine on our Quick Response Vehicle. This is a major accomplishment for both our service and the community.

In addition to our partnership with Dr. Patterson, Dr. Jacob, and the other residents, numerous members have been able to participate in ride-along programs offered by Dewey EMS in Hellertown, PA and Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company. These ride-alongs provide valuable experience for student or current EMTs, as they are able to work with experienced paramedics and EMTs on a transporting ambulance. This enables them to see a wider variety of calls that they may not normally see on campus (such as geriatric calls), and also allows them to see the emergency call start to finish from the time of the 911 call, until care is transferred to hospital staff at the receiving hospital. In addition, these agencies currently employ some of the more experienced members of our organization (3 in Hellertown, 1 in Bethlehem Township), allowing even our most experienced members to keep all their skills fresh and up-to-date.

Strategic Plan for 2006- 2007

Fall 2006:

Continue progress towards having staffing 365 days a year

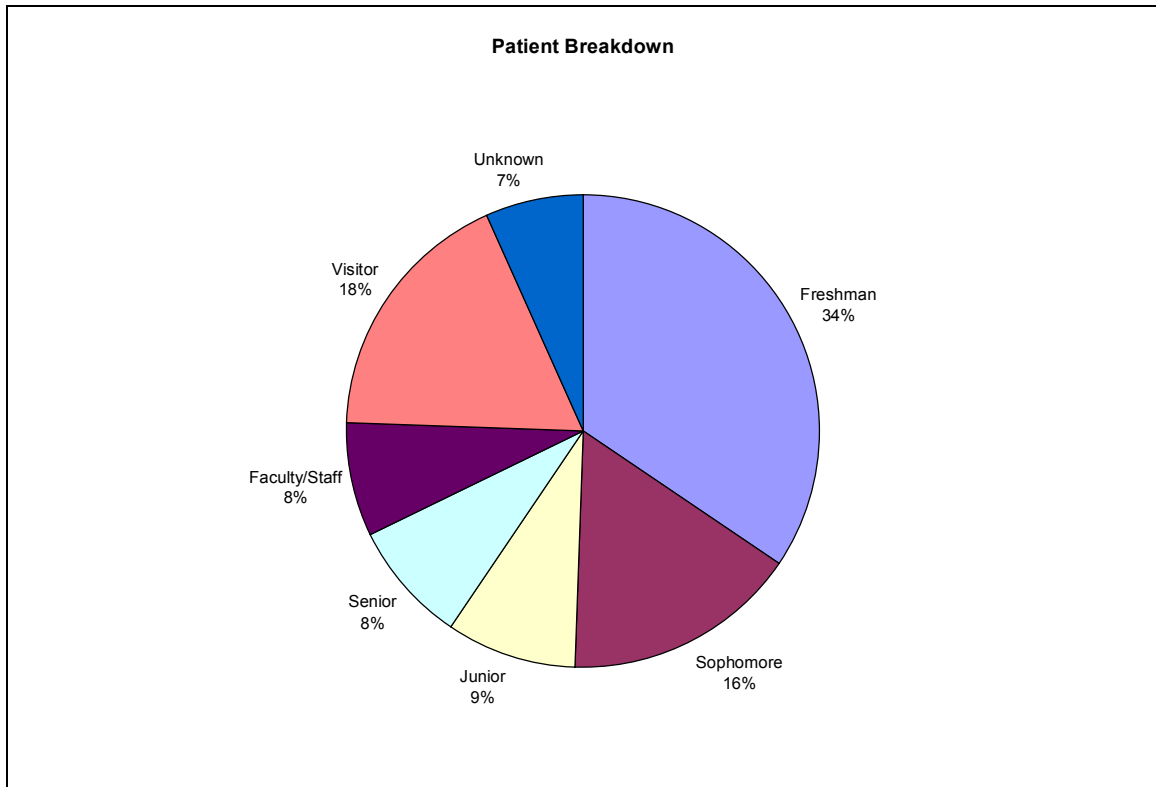
Hold mass CPR courses to increase community awareness

Maintain strong membership participation with nearby EMS agencies

Spring 2007:

Maintain strong presence in Northampton County EMT Course

Explore mutual-aid agreements and partnerships to cover all athletic events



How does Lehigh EMS Compare to Squads at Peer Institutions?

Lehigh EMS has become very active with the National Collegiate EMS Foundation (NCEMSF) during the past couple years. Recently, 8 members attended the annual NCEMSF Conference in Boston, MA, where we were able to exchange our unique ideas and programs with peer institutions. This is quickly becoming a very important annual event for the leadership of our organization to attend. It allows for our service to constantly improve.

Below is a representation of some of our peer institutions and how they operate their campus EMS service:

Villanova University: Villanova EMS provides coverage 365 days a year to the Villanova University community and the surrounding towns. They operate a transporting Basic Life Support ambulance. 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.

Cornell University: Cornell University EMS is certified New York State EMS Agency, providing service to Cornell University community and surrounding University owned properties. They operate a 2004 Chevy Suburban and respond to almost 500 calls per year.

Muhlenberg College: Muhlenberg College operates 24/7 during the school year with one 2002 Chevy Blazer and multiple bike units. They have their own housing complex where they operate their service out of, providing a quick response of the entire crew. 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

2006 Executive Board (Spring Only)

Captain	Jason Malinowski, EMT-B
Lieutenant-Training/Operations	Steve Lewis, EMT-B
Lieutenant-Scheduling	Mark Zakutansky, EMT-B
Treasurer	Christina Hajicharalambous, EMT-B
Secretary	Angela Pozza
Observer Coordinator	Kat Lawrence

2005 Executive Board

Captain	Jason Malinowski, EMT-B
Lieutenant-Training/Operations	Steve Lewis, EMT-B
Lieutenant-Scheduling	Mark Zakutansky, EMT-B
Treasurer	Ashish Kapila, EMT-B
Secretary	Bhumi Patel, EMT-B

Lehigh University Police Department Advisors:

Chief Edward Shupp (Chief of Police)
Sergeant Christopher Houtz, EMT-B (Lehigh EMS Advisor)

Medical Director:

John Patterson, MD (St. Lukes Hospital, Bethlehem, PA)
Sharon Jacob, DO (St. Lukes Hospital, Bethlehem, PA)

Industry Professionals and Advisors:

William Guth, EMT-P (City of Bethlehem EMS)

Lehigh EMS in the News:

http://www.policevolunteers.org/pdf/College%20and%20University_rev.pdf

<http://www.ncemsf.org/about/publications/newsletter/conference2006.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**Lehigh EMS Roster
(as of January 1, 2006)**

Jason Malinowski, Captain, EMT-B
Steven Lewis, Lieutenant, EMT-B
Mark Zakutansky, Lieutenant, EMT-B
Christina Hajjicharalambous, Treasurer, EMT-B
Angela Pozza, Secretary
Katherine Lawrence, Observer Coordinator
Alexander Senchak, Crew Chief, EMT-B
Ashish Kapila, Crew Chief, EMT-B
Tyler Espenlaub, Crew Chief, EMT-B
Bhumi Patel, EMT-B
Racine Henry, EMT-B
Joshua Grossman, EMT-B
Aalok Shah, EMT-B
Frank Fabris, EMT-B
Andrew Stewart, EMT-B
Brett Moses, EMT-B
Reid Gronostajski, EMT-B
Katrina Cokleski, EMT-B
Kumar Shah, EMT-B
Lauren Bacigalupo, EMT-B
Jason Zeller, EMT-B
Steven Faschan, EMT-B
Vera Partem, Observer
Shawn Amin, Observer
Robin Camp, Observer
Matt Moynihan, Observer
Priya Iyer, Observer
Jessica Adler, Observer
Michael Hall, Observer
Matthew Berger, Observer
Mike Mazzei, Observer
Sarah Butner, Observer
Nick Kastango, Observer
Fletcher Marks, Observer
Lauren Anderson, Observer
Ciara Lowery, Observer
Eileen Mazzochette, Observer
Hieu Nguyen, Observer
Caitlin Oksenik, Observer
Jessica Simberlund, Observer
Laura Petrini, Observer
Jennifer Olenik, Observer
Tamara Nisic, Observer
Anthony Chima, Observer
Annie Feldman, Observer

<http://www.lehigh.edu/ems>