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May 18, 2026

To: All Emergency Medical Dispatchers, Emergency Medical Responders, EMTs, EMT-Intermediates, Advanced EMTs, Paramedics, Executives, Chiefs, Directors, Supervisors, and Administrators

Re: National EMS Week, May 17-23, 2026



Congratulations to each emergency medical services professional in our EMS system on this occasion of 2026's National EMS Week, a week that recognizes the essential and heroic service you provide every week!

On behalf of the Medical Control Board and the Office of the Medical Director, all of us are honored to recognize and thank you for admirably serving the citizens and visitors depending upon our EMS system. The national theme of 2026's EMS Week is "Improving Outcomes. Together."

This theme is particularly timely and accurate! Together, we achieved what ties an all-time high in cardiac arrest survival for our EMS system. In Calendar Year 2025, for those with a witnessed sudden cardiac arrest, bystander CPR, and found in ventricular fibrillation on EMS arrival...42% survived!! AND...100% of those survivors are completely neurologically intact thanks to your dedicated skill and care!!!

Factoring all forms of sudden cardiopulmonary arrest, over 102 individuals are now alive thanks to you and your colleagues in this EMS system. We absolutely improve outcomes and we do it together, 24/7/365.

Last year, our EMS system responded to over 250,000 calls, again making ours one of the busiest in the United States and beyond. Your commitment to excellence in prehospital medicine defines our collective success in beginning emergency care for these patients, whether their need is for hope, defibrillation, whole blood, or anything else within our scopes of practice.

The Office of the Medical Director team hopes to see as many of you as possible this week. Please accept this communication as 1) our personal and sincere thank you for your fine work, and 2) our invitation to directly hear from you, what we can do even better to serve our patients and very importantly, to serve you as you serve patients.

With respect & sincere appreciation for difficult, meaningful work done extremely well,

The OMD Team