

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2008

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Emergency Medical Services Base in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to hold an educational session to discuss EMS operations and practices. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Erik D. Battle, Commissioner-elect, Gordon G. Satterfield, Commissioner-elect, and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Ward opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

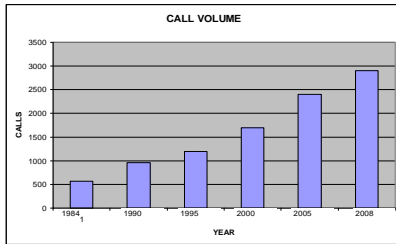
CASWELL COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Jim Gusler, EMS Director, presented and reviewed the following information regarding Emergency Medical Services operations and practices.

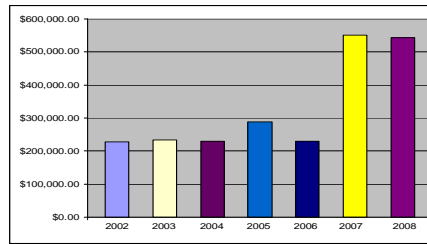
What is the difference between a Paramedic and an EMT?

- EMT
 - Basic medical skills
 - Splinting, Vitals Check, Assessments, etc.
 - 160+ hours of Community College instruction
 - Credential good for 4 years
 - Requires 96 hours of training every credential period
- Paramedic
 - ALS- Advanced Life Support Care
 - All basic skill of the EMT
 - 1950+ hours of Community College instruction (Certificate Program)
 - 4 year credential
 - Requires at least 96 hours of training every credential period, most paramedics receive in excess of 50 hours per year to maintain ancillary certifications.

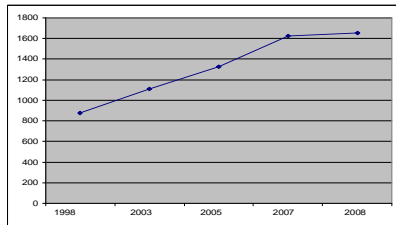
Service Data



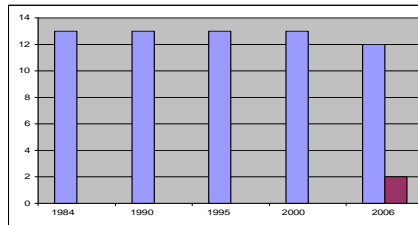
Call Volume



Revenue



Patient Transports



Personnel Staffing

Transportation and Unit Availability

- Which way do we go?
- Unit Availability in relationship to long transports.
- Turn-Around Times are the most significant issue
 - Average Turn Around Time ~122 minutes
 - Average transport mileage ~18 miles
 - Average patient cost per transport ~\$422.00

Why move units during the day?

- EMS Priority One:
 - Reduce response time to critically sick or injured patients
 - Seconds can sometime mean the difference between life and death.
 - Our current average response time is 16 minutes and 32 seconds outside of Yanceyville. Some areas over 25 minutes.
 - » Remember if you have a cardiac arrest you are brain dead in less than 10 minutes
 - » Treating a serious traumatic injury 5 minutes earlier can be the difference in a positive or poor prognosis.
 - Current recommendations for EMS response times in rural areas like ours: **12 minutes and 59 seconds.**

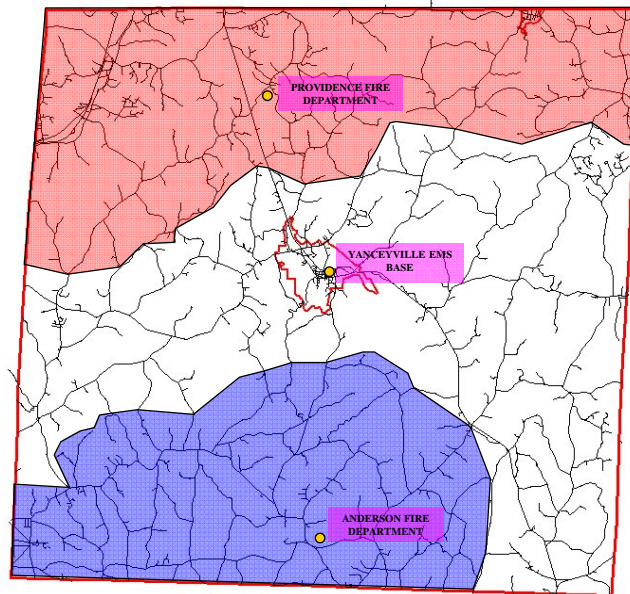
Why move units during the day?

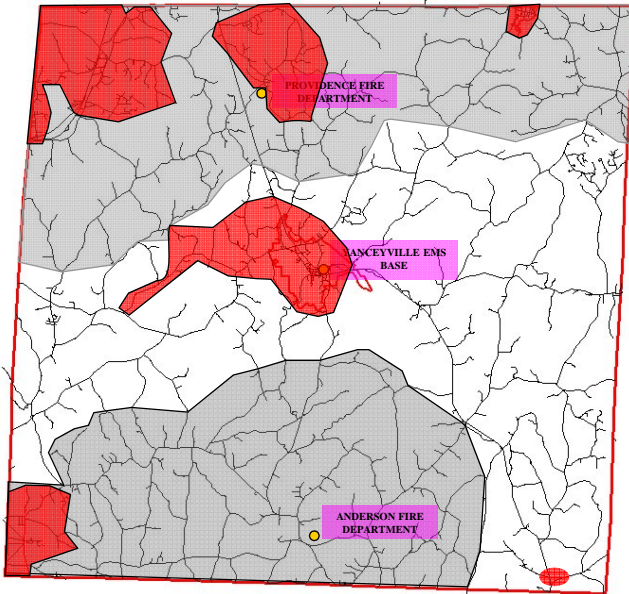
- Manpower Issues
 - County Fire Departments are having great difficulty getting fire volunteers not to say ones that want to take another 150 hours of training to run medical calls.
- Public Relations
 - Positive image for Caswell County. Citizens can see how the county is working to improve delivery of and timeliness of services to them.

Advanced Life Support Coverage

- Patient Outcomes are negatively affected in critical patients when ALS response times are increased.
- Everyone in the county deserves comparable ALS coverage.
- Positive public response about EMS has greatly improved since decentralizing units.
- Increases overall system response capability.

**Caswell EMS
District Map**





Caswell
EMS
High Call
Volume
Areas

Employee Cost

- Equipment Cost
 - Uniform: \$453.00
(Uniform Shirt, Pants, Boots, Jacket)
 - Rescue Gear: \$898.00
- Training Cost
 - Per New Employee:
 - Orientation: EMT- ~ \$450.00
Paramedic~ \$1300.00
 - Required Classes: Paramedic~ \$600.00
 - Much cheaper to keep personnel here than continuing to recycle them.

Equipment Cost

- Current Cost of Unit Replacement
 - \$125,000
- Unit Equipment Cost (completely stocked)
 - \$41,500
- Training Equipment Cost
 - We currently have roughly \$16,000 worth of training manikins and other training equipment.

Protocol, Policy, and Procedure

- EMS is governed by a multitude of operational policies
 - Caswell County Personnel Policy
 - Caswell County Emergency Services GOG's
 - Caswell County Medical Protocols
 - Caswell County Medical Procedures
 - Caswell County Medical Policies
 - Caswell County Infection Control Policy
 - NC General Statute and Administrative Code
 - Caswell County EMS System Plan

Caswell County ES GOG

- This is the operational guidelines that personnel operate under
- Provides a template to assist personnel in making operational decisions
- Provides decision making justification
- The right and wrong (maybe) guide

Caswell County Medical Protocol, Policy, and Procedures

- Standing Orders: What a paramedic can do in the field without consultation with a physician.
- Procedure Guides: The how to perform certain medical procedures.
- Medical Policy: The “What you can do”
- We currently have 32 medical protocols, 24 medical procedure guides, and 20 medical policy guides.

Demo of Equipment

- Cardiac Monitor
 - 12 lead acquisition and transmission
 - Defibrillation
 - Cardioversion
 - Pacing
 - CO2 Monitoring
 - Oxygen Saturation
- Intraosseous Drill
- Intubation
- CPAP
- Quik Trach
- Chest Decompression
- Medication Listing
 - Currently Carry 29 different medications for emergency purpose.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
