



MEDIA RELEASE

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Health Minister Proclaims May 15 – 21, 2005 Emergency Medical Services Awareness Week

2005/05/15 – In recognition of the vital public service provided by Emergency Medical Services personnel throughout the Province, Health Minister Tim Sale has proclaimed May 15–21, 2005 to be Emergency Medical Services Awareness Week in Manitoba.

“Emergency medical services are vital to our health care system, and are often the first point of contact within the system for many Manitobans”, said Tim Sale, Minister of Health.

“EMS Awareness Week is an excellent opportunity to recognize the significant contributions made each and every day by pre-hospital care givers in communities right across our province”, adds Eric Glass, Chairman of the Paramedic Association of Manitoba. “It also offers a tremendous forum for the public to learn more about early recognition of medical emergencies, as well as the importance of personal health awareness and injury prevention”.

Ambulance services across the province will be hosting a number of public relations and educational events throughout the week. This is an excellent opportunity for Manitobans to better understand the importance of Emergency Medical Services within our health care system, and recognize that timely and appropriate emergency care not only improves survival and recovery rates, but also saves countless lives every year.



Paramedic Association of Manitoba Inc.

Manitoba Paramedics Responding for Life

A sudden illness or injury can happen anywhere at anytime. Signs of a potential life-threatening emergency can include:

- pain, tightness, heaviness or pressure in the chest
- difficulty breathing
- severe or uncontrolled bleeding
- sudden persistent weakness or numbness
- decreased level of consciousness
- sudden confusion or disorientation
- sudden onset of difficulty speaking or blurred vision.

There are over 1,200 licenced EMS practitioners in Manitoba, from First Responders to Advanced Care Paramedics. Manitoba ambulance services operate 160 land ambulances, and respond to more than 110,000 emergency calls each year. In addition there are approximately 3,500 air medical transports in our province annually.

For more information about Emergency Medical Services in your area, you can contact your Regional Health Authority or local EMS operator.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba represents the professional interests of Emergency Medical Services practitioners to ensure the well-being and appropriate medical treatment of patients.

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