



PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Jonathan A. Nixon, Director

PRESS RELEASE – PARAMEDIC LEVEL EMS SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 2, 2018

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This morning at 8:00AM the EMS Division began providing Emergency Medical Services at the Paramedic level of care. The process began in March of 2017 as preparations were being made for the 2017-2018 Budget. Milestones included: hiring three Paramedic Shift Supervisors, purchasing new equipment and EMS System Plan modification approval from the NC Office of EMS. Along with meeting these benchmarks, 2018 is the year for upgrading state-wide medical protocols so additional staff training had to be initiated. Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon noted, “I am really proud of the staff, as this transition has been a major undertaking for the entire team.”

Upgrading from the Advanced EMT level (formally EMT-Intermediate) enables Paramedic staff to provide added interventions including:

- Airway – Cricothyrotomy
- Airway – Tracheostomy Tube Change
- Airway – Ventilator Operation
- Cardiac – Pacing
- Cardiac – Cardioversion
- Chest Decompression
- Manual Defibrillation
- Venous Access – Central Line Access & Maintenance
- Venous Access – Intraosseous.

In addition, multiple medicines have been added to the medical formulary including:

CARDIAC

- Epinephrine Infusion
- Adenosine
- Amiodarone
- Atropine
- Diltiazem
- Furosemide
- Lidocaine
- Sodium Bicarbonate

PAIN (Pending DEA Approval)

- Morphine Sulfate
- Fentanyl

RESPIRATORY

- Solu-Medrol

- Magnesium Sulfate
- N.V.D. (Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea)

- Zofran
- Phenergan

SEIZURE (Pending DEA Approval)

- Diazepam
- Versed

HYPOTENSIVE

- Dopamine

HYPERKALEMIA

- Calcium Chloride/Gluconate

SEDATION

- Etomidate
- Haloperidol.

Adding the new equipment, medications and interventions will prove to be greatly beneficial to our patients. Jonathan Nixon stated, “I am extremely excited that we are now able to provide this higher level of service for our customers!” The NC Office of EMS took time to call today to wish the agency well on first day as a Paramedic System.

While the process may have taken less than a year, the vision was realized by the Board of County Commissioners many years ago. County Manager Frank Heath recalls, “One major focus of our Commissioners' board retreats over the past five years has been a goal to offer the Paramedic level of care for our citizens. That goal has been realized thanks to the hard work of the EMS staff and the planning of past and present boards.”

Perquimans County Emergency Services has made great strides at improving the services we provide to our citizens and guests. With the implementation of Emergency Medical Dispatch, working with multiple first responder agencies for our first county-wide full-scale exercise and a move to Paramedic, together we are making positive changes that will affect our County for years to come. Regardless of these changes, the one thing that has not changed is that every time a 911 line rings or a call for service is dispatched people move into action. These people comprise our public safety community and are our most valuable asset!
