



South County Emergency Medical Services

Report to the Board of Oversight

Feb 17, 2023

First Responder Training for Other Agencies:

All Police and Fire Departments (not otherwise licensed by the Dept of Public Health) have been required since 1978 to certify all responders in "Advanced First Aid" (understood to be a First Responder or Emergency Medical Responder certification) and CPR for Healthcare Professional within 1 year of initial appointment. This law further requires that those same responders recertify in First Aid every 3 years and CPR every one year. Currently there is only one Emergency Medical Responder certification available, which is the 56-hour curriculum from the American Red Cross.

The requirements to provide this and similar courses, and certify attendees include: Lead instructor minimum qualifications and certification, minimum instructor to student ratios, minimum training equipment, minimum training space, and incorporation as an established training site with the parent organization.

The investment in both resources and time to provide these courses have necessitated an entire industry to provide it, not unlike the existence of trade schools adjacent to their respective professions. South County EMS, along with much larger public safety agencies, contract these services to training organizations, as it is significantly more cost effective to pay another organization to maintain those standards than to try to adopt the additional duties ourselves.

South County EMS has employed people who happen to be instructors and work part time for outside training organizations. These in-house instructors have brought their expertise to our agency and other departments in our service area through a cooperative understanding, wherein South County provides the instructor hours and the education company provides the equipment, administration, and certification. As South County's responsibilities to maintain an emergency response ability increase, and the training organizations responsibilities to maintain up-to-date curriculums and equipment, this cooperative understanding is quickly becoming untenable. Additionally, with the increased scrutiny rightfully being placed on the various public safety agencies, it is imperative that their legal obligations to provide adequate and thorough training is being met.

Even if South County EMS was tasked with becoming a training organization in addition to our emergency response duties, it would not currently be an option. Aside from the significant investment in training equipment and personnel to instruct and manage the administration of programs, there are no available "Training Site" certifications available. These sites are awarded based on many factors, but the existence of many such organizations in MA has resulted in no new locations being awarded. This is assuming we would even meet the minimum qualifications without our own dedicated training facility and equipment storage.

South County EMS has always, and will always, be committed to providing education and instruction to our fellow departments. We pride ourselves in being pre-hospital emergency medicine subject matter experts, and we routinely bring this knowledge and expertise to those who can benefit from it. We are not however equipped or even the best option to provide the legal certification services to the sister agencies in the three towns. Not only would it be prohibitive for us to expand into this role, the quality of training already available locally is exceptional and does not need to be duplicated.

FY24 Budget:

The latest FY24 draft budget (v6 dated 02/16/2023) has been updated with information provided by the Town of Deerfield. Retirement costs have increased based on increases to hourly rates as well as a 6% increase to health insurance rates. Worker's Comp and Indirect Costs are both lower than previous versions. These changes result in a a total FY24 assessment to the members towns of \$726,221.

That breaks down to:

Deerfield:	\$375,901
Sunderland:	\$228,591
Whately:	\$121,729

Write-Offs:

After a recent audit of the Town of Deerfield, it was suggested that ambulance receipt write-offs be conducted on a more frequent basis. Currently, outstanding balances greater than 5 years old are all written off, and no debt younger than that is sent to collections. This is not atypical for other local municipalities, but is an area where more aggressive revenue chasing could be made.

The current write-off policy is extremely aggressive, and in practice seems that it would send individuals to collections that the BoO or the member towns may not intend. The Board of Oversight should review the policy and amend as necessary, or institute a means for the department and towns to respond to patients who are eventually sent to collections.

FY24 Budget presentations are scheduled for Deerfield on March 20th. And Whately on April 4th. The Sunderland presentation occurred on Monday January 30th.

Scheduled 2023 Board of Oversight meetings:
Jan 17 - Feb 21 - Mar 21 - April 18 - June 20 - Sept 19 - Nov 21

Respectfully,
Chief Z. Smith

2023	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	INT	REF	OTHR	Drfld	SndInd	Whly	Primary	Amh	Asfld	Cnwy	Gill	Gnfd	Htfd	Lvrtt	Mont	Noho	Nfid	NwSim	Rowe	Shbn	TrnFls	Mutual Aid	
January	102	80	70	10	1	12	9	51	22	14	87	2	1	3	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
February	0	0									0																0
March	0	0									0																0
April	0	0									0																0
May	0	0									0																0
June	0	0									0																0
July	0	0									0																0
August	0	0									0																0
September	0	0									0																0
October	0	0									0																0
November	0	0									0																0
December	0	0									0																0
Totals:	102	80	70	10	1	12	9	51	22	14	87	2	1	3	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15

2022	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	INT	REF	OTH	DRF	SUN	WHA	Primary	Cnwy	Gnfd	Htfd	Trnrs	Mont	Lvrtt	Amh	Noho	Nthfld	Shlbrn	Nw Sim	Ashfld	Rowe	Gill	Mutual Aid	
January	115	85	69	16	1	19	10	57	31	16	104	3	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
February	79	54	43	11	1	16	8	41	20	12	73	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
March	87	67	61	6	0	15	5	50	19	12	81	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
April	96	69	59	10	1	22	4	45	30	12	87	3	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
May	107	74	62	12	1	23	9	52	27	12	91	2	6	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
June	105	74	63	11	0	20	11	49	32	15	96	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
July	97	62	50	12	3	27	5	50	23	11	84	2	5	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13
August	121	79	69	10	4	31	7	60	29	14	103	4	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
September	110	75	62	13	1	22	12	56	28	13	97	4	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
October	92	68	57	11	1	17	6	39	24	15	78	1	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
November	102	66	49	17	3	26	7	43	29	12	84	4	9	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18
December	105	67	56	11	1	26	11	58	21	14	93	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Totals:	1216	840	700	140	17	264	95	600	313	158	1071	28	77	7	9	1	3	6	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	145

2021	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	Intercepts	Refusals	Other	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	Primary	Conway	Greenfield	Turners	Montague	Amherst	Hatfield	Nhmptn	Pelham	Mutual Aid
January	95	65	51	14	0	21	9	60	18	12	90	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
February	79	57	44	13	0	16	6	39	23	14	76	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
March	86	46	34	12	1	31	8	51	14	11	76	3	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
April	92	74	59	15	0	14	4	44	33	12	89	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
May	114	73	55	18	1	36	4	61	31	17	109	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
June	84	62	50	12	0	18	4	55	15	10	80	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
July	90	65	44	21	0	22	3	41	29	14	84	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
August	108	83	69	14	0	21	4	57	21	17	95	4	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	13
September	84	66	58	8	0	15	3	47	23	11	81	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
October	104	69	58	11	0	25	10	43	26	22	91	3	0	1	1	3	1	2	2	13
November	90	70	59	11	0	15	5	51	17	15	83	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	7
December	102	85	75	10	0	5	12	47	24	23	94	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Totals:	1128	815	656	159	2	239	72	596	274	178	1048	26	26	6	2	7	9	2	2	80

2020	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	Intercepts	Refusals	Other	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	Primary	Conway	Greenfield	Turners	Bernardston	Amherst	Hatfield	Leyden	Shelburne	Shelburne Falls	Charlemont	Heath	Williamsburg	Leverett	Mutual Aid
January	79	57	49	8	5	15	2	28	21	19	68	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	11
February	101	66	54	12	4	27	4	56	24	13	93	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
March	82	56	40	16	0	22	4	50	15	12	77	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
April	65	36	32	4	0	20	9	36	18	10	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
May	70	51	41	10	1	16	2	34	22	8	64	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
June	86	55	39	16	0	26	5	43	32	9	84	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
July	77	55	43	12	1	19	2	38	15	19	72	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
August	101	70	55	15	0	25	6	51	19	27	97	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
September	83	53	42	11	2	22	6	29	25	24	78	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
October	91	60	48	12	0	21	10	37	27	25	89	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
November	78	55	43	12	0	19	4	42	15	15	72	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
December	86	62	51	11	0	17	7	51	15	16	82	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Totals:	999	676	537	139	13	249	61	495	248	197	940	22	12	6	0	6	1	3	3	3	1				59
2019	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	Intercepts	Refusals	Other	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	Primary	Conway	Greenfield	Turners	Other	Mutual Aid									
January	86	63	46	17	1	17	5	40	24	15	79	2	2	0	3	7									
February	90	59	38	21	1	24	6	52	21	11	84	2	3	0	1	6									
March	76	49	42	7	1	22	4	39	21	13	73	2	1	0	0	3									
April	83	62	47	15	2	14	5	38	19	21	78	3	1	0	1	5									
May	98	69	44	25	0	23	6	57	23	16	96	0	0	0	2	2									
June	83	57	40	17	1	16	9	33	21	21	75	2	0	3	3	8									
July	81	52	40	12	0	23	6	47	18	14	79	1	0	0	1	2									
August	86	64	53	11	1	15	6	49	15	21	85	0	0	0	2	2									
September	89	59	54	5	3	21	6	48	19	15	82	4	0	1	2	7									
October	95	71	55	16	3	18	3	46	21	24	91	0	1	1	2	4									
November	89	62	57	5	1	22	4	51	14	15	80	3	2	0	4	9									
December	81	50	41	9	0	27	4	38	22	16	76	2	1	1	1	5									
Totals:	1037	717	557	160	14	242	64	538	238	202	978	21	11	6	22	60									
2018	Total Runs	Transports	ALS	BLS	Intercepts	Refusals	Other	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	Primary	Conway	Greenfield	Turners	Amherst	Hatfield	Other	Mutual Aid							
January	113	85	56	29	3	19	6	70	25	10	105	3	3	0	0	0	7								
February	95	74	53	21	2	15	4	49	22	11	82	3	5	1	2	0	13								
March	88	60	43	17	3	18	7	51	16	11	78	5	3	0	0	2	10								
April	73	47	33	14	1	18	7	50	9	8	67	2	3	0	0	1	6								
May	103	60	48	12	6	34	3	54	22	9	85	0	14	2	0	2	18								
June	104	62	43	19	6	28	8	41	20	30	91	1	4	5	0	3	13								
July	103	72	49	23	2	23	6	45	22	15	82	5	6	2	0	3	21								
August	111	65	50	15	11	23	12	51	24	18	93	2	9	5	0	2	18								
September	89	61	49	12	5	17	6	44	13	15	72	5	5	2	0	5	17								
October	98	59	49	10	5	23	11	53	14	18	85	1	5	4	0	3	13								
November	103	60	41	19	5	28	10	46	21	19	86	2	8	1	1	4	17								
December	114	69	51	18	10	26	9	66	18	10	94	3	11	0	0	1	20								
Totals:	1194	774	565	209	59	272	89	620	226	174	1020	32	76	22	3	8	32	173							