

# Southern Paramedic Service

## Quarterly NEWS

*The team to count on  
when life is on the line.*



### A Message From: Southern Paramedic Service CEO, Gary Padget



The first quarter of 2021 has been very eventful for Southern Paramedic Service! It hasn't been that long since we were literally digging out after Snowmageddon 2021! I could not be more impressed with our EMS professionals or more grateful for them and their supportive families. These men and women braved unbelievable conditions to respond to medical emergencies throughout our service areas day after day during some of the worst weather any of us has seen in years. Emergency Medical Services in Arkansas and all throughout the US continue to put forth a valiant effort at staffing, responding to the ill and injured. They experience the threat of potentially contracting COVID-19 during every single call. Luckily, 50% of our field medics have received the COVID-19 vaccine. We anticipate the vaccine will increase the interest in EMS careers and maintain our current staff

All over America, EMS providers have faced numerous staffing challenges, staff COVID illnesses and increased violence perpetrated upon EMS field personnel. All these issues require EMS leaders to look at new solutions for ensuring a safe workplace environment. And we are. Regardless, our crews continue to serve, advocate for their patients and save lives.

Southern Paramedic Service recently received notice of our continued national accreditation with the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services for another three years. We recently took delivery on one new ambulance and two remounted ambulances (all of which have been outfitted with

Stryker load systems and power cots). Our EMT education courses and CPR courses produced 38 graduates. We have pitched in to help with the Child Passenger Safety Program and look forward to continuing our contributions as a good corporate citizen.

As we enjoy Spring 2021, it is with optimism and the promise of finally seeing all of us getting back to "normal".

***We thank you for your continued support of EMS and our EMS professionals.***



### Child Passenger Safety Program

Southern Ambulance received a grant from UAMS to become a satellite station for the Child Passenger Safety Program in Cross County. **Kelli Tuck**, a Paramedic working out of the Wynne Station, was integral in making this program happen and will be leading this initiative. Twelve car seats will be given out and there will be an event scheduled sometime very soon.

## Tornado Safety

It's that time of year again to prepare for inclement/severe weather. The American Red Cross has a great article [HERE](#). Below are lists of important things to know when preparing for and increasing your chance of a good outcome when dealing with Tornadoes.

### Top Tips

- Identify a safe place in your home where household members and pets will gather during a tornado: a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- In a high-rise building, pick a hallway in the center of the building. You may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor.
- In a mobile home, choose a safe place in a nearby sturdy building. If your mobile home park has a designated shelter, make it your safe place. No mobile home, however it is configured, is safe during a tornado.

### Protecting Your Family

- Talk about tornadoes with your family so that everyone knows where to go if a tornado warning is issued. Discussing ahead of time helps reduce fear, especially for younger children.
- Check at your workplace and your children's schools and day care centers to learn about their tornado emergency plans. Every building has different safe places.
- Ensure that every member of your family carries a Safe and Well wallet card.
- Make sure you have access to NOAA radio broadcasts, either through streaming an online NOAA radio station, downloading a NOAA radio app in the Apple Store or Google Play, or purchasing a battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA radio in the Red Cross Store
- Check emergency kit and replenish any items missing or in short supply. especially medications or other medical supplies. Keep it nearby.

### Protecting your home

- Make a list of items to bring inside in the event of a storm.
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased or damaged limbs, then strategically remove branches so that wind can blow through. Strong winds frequently break weak limbs and hurl them at great speed, causing damage or injury when they hit.
- Remove any debris or loose items in your yard. Branches and firewood may become missiles in strong winds.
- Consider installing permanent shutters to cover windows. Shutters can be closed quickly and provide the safest protection for windows.
- Strengthen garage doors. Garage doors are often damaged or destroyed by flying debris, allowing strong winds to enter. As winds apply pressure to the walls, the roof can be lifted off, and the rest of the house can easily follow.



### **Right Before a Tornado - Don't wait until you see the tornado to act! If you do nothing else:**

- Listen to local area radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Move to an underground shelter, basement or safe room. If none is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative. (Remember: no area of a mobile home is safe during a tornado. If you have access to a sturdy shelter or a vehicle, go there immediately, using your seat belt if driving.)
- Find a local emergency shelter and know the best routes to get there if you need to.

### **Then, if you can, do this: DURING - If You Are Outdoors**

- Seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building.
- If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter, immediately get into a vehicle and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. Remember to buckle your seat belt.
- Stay away from bridge/highway overpasses.
- If strong winds and flying debris occurs while driving, pull over and park, keeping your seat belt on and engine running. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands and a blanket.

### **AFTER - If you do nothing else:**

- Let friends and family know you're safe - Register yourself as safe on the "Safe and Well" website
- If evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions.
- Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to persons in need until emergency responders arrive.



**GARY**

CEO/Paramedic

**Southern Paramedic Service**



**CHRISTINA**

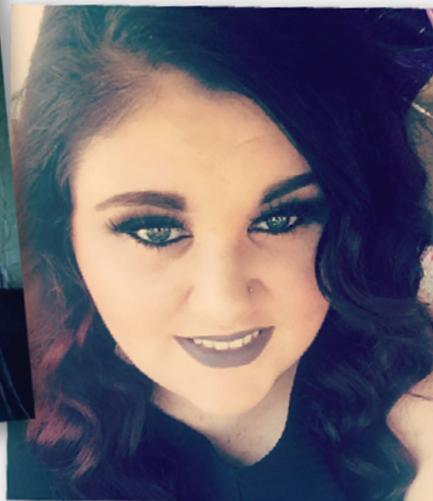
Dispatch Manager

### **Southern Employees' ID Badges Have a New LOOK!**

Employees now have name badges for our employees and dispatch.

### **Dispatchers of the Month!**

(L to R) Amanda Stewart and Kristi Adcock



### **Education/Community Service**

Since November 2020, Southern Paramedic Service has been busy providing EMT, CPR, and EMR classes in their service areas. Tabitha Jones, NRP/Instructor from the Stuttgart Station has overseen two, six-week EMT classes. Lonoke Fire Department was generous enough to host the classes at their facility. Mike Drost taught a 40-hour EMR/First Responder course which was hosted by the Biscoe Fire Department in Prairie County. The class served students from the Biscoe, DeValls Bluff, and Hazen Fire Departments. Southern Paramedic Service also provided CPR classes to almost 70 individuals including 29 Brinkley High School students.



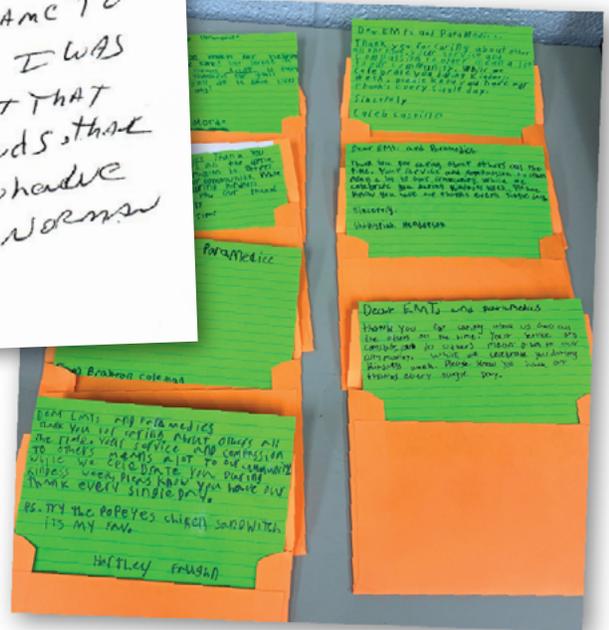
## Thank You Letters!

Dear EMT's paramedics. **Thank you** for caring about others all the time. Your service and compassion to others means a lot to our community. While we celebrate you during Kindness Week. Please know you have our thanks every single day.

Caiden Sims | Addison Mord |  
Braxton Coleman | Shalhriah  
Henderson

**Thank you** for excellent service. As OEM I have dealt with Southern on many occasions and always pleased with your service. When it came to my wife needing help, I was comforted by the fact she was in good hands. Thank you for being there when we need you.

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PK Norman*



**Celebrating Christmas 2020  
with the City of Wynne!**



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**Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.**