



TOWN OF AMHERST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Amherst Fire Rescue Ambulance Service Upgraded

Amherst, NH (February 25, 2016) – Fire Rescue Chief Matthew Conley has announced a change in the delivery of emergency medical service to residents, businesses and visitors in the Town of Amherst. Ambulance service has been upgraded to the paramedic care service level. Paramedic care is the highest level of pre-hospital care available. Paramedics are able to administer numerous medications and perform life saving measures that Advanced Life Support (ALS) level providers cannot. Additionally, our paramedics have supplementary training and certification in advanced cardiac care and pediatric emergency care.

Previously, staffing allowed for paramedic level coverage occasionally but not always. On most shifts ALS EMTs were the highest certification level on staff. Chief Conley has been in recruitment mode since taking the helm as Chief of the newly created Fire Rescue Department in July of 2015. The board of selectmen approved the merger of two separate departments, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire, into a single Fire Rescue Department. The merger coincided with Conley's appointment as chief.

“Since September we have seen a steady increase in paramedics applying for shifts”, said Conley. During the months of January and February all shifts were staffed with at least one paramedic. Amherst ambulances are staffed with three personnel, drawing from a pool of part time EMTs, paramedics and call firefighters who carry varying levels of EMS licensures. Conley explained, “I am now comfortable enough to make it official that from now on our policy will be to provide paramedic level care on our ambulances 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to our community.”

In the world of emergency medical service providers there is an expression called the “Golden Hour”. It refers to the period of time, 60 minutes or less, between traumatic injury being sustained by a casualty or medical emergency and critical interventions and definitive care in a hospital setting. Paramedic level service, at the first point of contact, increases the likelihood of a positive outcome.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dwight Brew said, “Of all of the accomplishments we’ve enjoyed in my last three years on the board, providing paramedic care to our residents is right at the top.”

“Our efforts in strategic planning, specifically, the voters’ support of the initiative to increase the wages of our fire rescue personnel are paying off in a real and tangible way,” explained Vice Chairman John D’Angelo.

The Fire Rescue Department has two ambulances, A-1 and A-2, ready for response in the town. A-1 is staffed 24 hours a day and A-2 is available if A-1 is responding to a call or has left town for a hospital transport.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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