Montgomery County Association Township Officials  Fall 2008
EMS Presentation  By: David Paul Brown
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EMS Critical InfraStructure

- Emergency Ambulance Units Responded to 73,000 calls in 2007
- Known as America’s Medical Safety Net-EMS brings State of the Art Care to the patient
- Patients are often-more critical because they lack primary care or have chronic conditions
- Nearly 50% of all patients seen by EMS are at least 60 years of age
EMS Patients/Calls 2007

- Montgomery County 9-1-1 services are mostly non-profit agencies, one is municipal based.
- 22 9-1-1 Agencies Responded to a range of calls from 600 to 10,000 responses.
- 73,000 patients/calls in 2007 is 200/day, 8 every hour, daytime hourly rates are nearer to 13/hour.
Changes

- 1985 10% Career Staffing
- 2008 90% Career Staffing

Why?

- Public Demand
- Number of Calls
- Special Skill Sets - Training Certification Required
- Society/Community Fabric - Available Volunteers
EMS Costs

- Costs Continue to Climb
- Follow Hospital-Healthcare-Medical Costs
- Increases in Liability Insurance, Fuel, Personnel, and Equipment Costs to name a few
- Costs leave little room for capital reserves
- A Heart-Monitor-Defibrillator can cost $22,000
Revenue

- Annual Voluntary Fund Drives are dependent on community understanding of costs and support
- Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursements do not cover all operating costs
- Private Insurance pays about 40 cents of every dollar that is billed
- Billing is allowed only when a patient is transported to hospital, doesn’t cover costs to being “ready”, standbys, refusals or treat no transport
- Insurance payment may be sent to patient, then EMS must try and recover the funds from the patient
Act 7-Municipal Involvement

- Annual reports provided by MCEMS - County & Municipal reports on request
- MCEMS Planning Tools Available to Municipalities
- Dialogue with EMS Community Units
- Assistance-Discussion
  - Understanding of Local EMS
  - Administrative Help
  - Funding Help-Grant Support
Future of EMS

- EMS agencies are striving for the latest technologies, including 12 lead EKG’s, stroke and cardiac catheter procedures.
- Mobile Data Terminals, Computer Aided Dispatch-Mapping-Vehicle Locators are being rolled out by County.
- Costs will continue to increase, and EMS Squads need help to ensure their survival in your community.
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