

National Emergency Medical Services Week May 15-21

Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD)
Announces Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Week May 15-21 2016, with the following
reasons to celebrate:

- WLAD provides dedicated Paramedics, EMT-I's and administrative staff whose number 1 priority is delivering excellent patient care.
- WLAD offers a Community Wide Public Education Program including CPR classes, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED's) Distribution and Training Program, SAFEKIDS, and the TLC Hospice Care Program.
- LIFEMED Patient Membership Program, providing our patients financial coverage for out of pocket Emergency Ambulance Services.
- The majority of WLAD Paramedics are trained as Critical Care Paramedics, allowing for a higher level of Mobile Intensive Care (MICU) Transport capabilities.
- WLAD operates at a tax base of 0.3198 cents per 1000 and at a 5 year operating levy of 0.45 cents per 1000 - which is one of the lowest tax rates for a Public Emergency Services agency in Oregon.
- One of the very few Public EMS agencies in the State of Oregon, which allows every dollar spent to go strictly to EMS services as well as State of the Art ambulances, top level medical equipment, medications, and training.
- Covering an Ambulance District of about 900 square miles with various terrains such as coastal, dunes swarming with ATV riders, metro and rural regions and responding to over 3000 calls annually including MICU transports to specialty care hospitals such as River Bend in Springfield, and OHSU and Legacy Emmanuel in Portland.



Winner of 7 State of Oregon
Awards for Outstanding
Service and Excellence.

Salute to



A note from the director:

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Interim Director for WLAD for the past 15 months as well as integrating into the community of the Florence area. Building on the proud and strong history of WLAD the organization has continued to actively pursue the sworn oath of providing our area residents with the highest standard of EMS services. My time in the community and with WLAD, based on 35 years working in the emergency field, has confirmed that WLAD provides on of the best EMS systems in the state of Oregon and beyond.

The District is staffed with full time and part time Paramedics and EMT's who provide advanced life support, critical care services and medical transports to our constituents throughout the approximate 900 square miles of service area. WLAD maintains a balance of three basic resources needed to carry our its mission: people, equipment and our facility that meets the current and future needs of the District is of primary concern. These assets are necessary to provide the service that the public expects and must be maintained and replaced as needed.

The people who work for WLAD are dedicated, highly trained and equipped with the latest technical equipment to meet this challenge and work tirelessly providing the level of service that is expected by the residents who live within the service are of WLAD.

In March, the Board of Directors approved a 3 to 5 year strategic plan following the vital and important input from citizen and internal groups that will guide our organizational goals and objectives over the next couple years. While we continue to face some challenges we low reimbursements from Medicare and other insurance carriers for ambulance transports, we want to thank all of our citizens for the needed tax support which assures that your EMS services are able to meet the growing demands for our area. As our call volumes continue to grow we have been able to add part-time staffing



that allows WLAD the ability of staffing 3 ambulances during our peak activity times. This increase in staffing helps assure that a crew is ready and available to respond without delay to the next request for help.

We continue to train our paramedics to the highest level of care for 9-1-1 responses and inner facility transfers to regional hospitals for specialty care that is needed by or patients. We continue to provide preventative education to our residents and work with our medical and emergency responders to efficiently integrate the health needs of our community.

Again, I want to thank the community, the Board of Directors and all of the members of WLAD for the support in WLAD's competency of meeting our Mission Statement "To provide quick, efficient, professional emergency medical services, transport and community education with the highest standard of excellence".

Sincerely,
Brian Burright, Interim Manager
Western Lane Ambulance District.

Message from the Board President:

The Future of Western Lane Ambulance District
The board of directors of Western Lane Ambulance District considers to be one of the finest emergency medical response teams anywhere. We intend to continue to deliver our high standard of care in a timely manner to the people of our district.

Our District faces several challenges in the near future. Our call volume continues to increase as our population both grows and ages. In each of the last two years we exceed 3,000 calls, a volume that was almost twice the call volume we had in the late 1990's when our tax base rate was set. At the same time we face ever declining reimbursements from insurance, Medicare and Medicaid.

We must continue to operate efficiently and

effectively. One way we do this is by hiring and retaining quality employees, those that know their jobs, and know the area. We will also continue to find ways to partner with Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue in both training and in call response. We will also continue to maintain quality, fully functioning up to date equipment to be used in the treatment and transport of our patients.

Regardless of the challenges we face, it is the mission of Western Lane Ambulance District to continue to "provide professional emergency services, transport, and community education with the highest standards of excellence".

Sincerely,
Mike Webb, Board President
Western Lane Ambulance District

Letter from Matt Danigelis, MD

I have been an emergency physician in Florence since 2003. Working in the emergency department, I have had numerous opportunities to observe the EMTs and paramedics of Western Lane Ambulance District. These providers have consistently demonstrated competence, efficiency, and a caring empathetic approach. These qualities have been very effective in alleviating much of the anxiety and concerns that patients under their care often have.

In 2008, I became the medical director of WLAD. In this role, I have witnessed the dedication of the ambulance crew, whether in maintaining quality assurance/quality improvement measures, community education, or in pursuing a higher level of training. Florence has a large retirement community and, as such, its residents often have a medical complexity that belies the

small size of the town. Many of the patients served by the district are critically ill and will eventually require transfer to a facility with more specialty services. Several of the paramedics at WLAD have become critical care certified. This certification requires intensive training in the evaluation and treatment of the most seriously ill patients. Having paramedics with these skills has been invaluable in best serving the needs of the district.

Western Lane Ambulance District has a knowledgeable, committed, and compassionate group of EMTs and paramedics. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as their medical director.

Sincerely,
Matt Danigelis, MD

