



2026 Recognitions



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Dylan Bikowski

Paramedic, St. Joseph County Fire Territory, St. Joseph County

In June of 2025, St. Joseph County started its own paramedic transport service. In the months leading up to this, Dylan assisted in making sure the ambulance and providers were ready to start transporting. Once transport started, Dylan continued to help by providing training for staff as well as teaching EMS professionals while working on the ambulance.

—Jay Pendergrass



May 17-23, 2026





Brandt Carrico

EMT, Lakeville Fire Department/St. Joseph County Fire Territory, St. Joseph County

Brandt is the provider every public safety member should strive to be. His ability to admit his own weaknesses and make them his strengths is remarkable. He has a sense of integrity that shows with just his presence. From scenes to the station, he is more than just a team player.

—Sidney Roda



May 17-23, 2026





Jessica Cook

Paramedic, Parkview EMS, Miami County

Jessica recently stepped into a supervisor role and has taken on the challenge of building a new EMS system. She listens to her team, recognizes their needs and works to support them.

She leads with honesty, acknowledges areas for growth and continues to develop as a leader. Her approach makes a meaningful difference for her team.

—Alyssa Platt



May 17-23, 2026





Dyer Fire Department, UCAN & Superior Ambulance 2262

Lake County

On February 13, 2025, the Dyer Fire Department, Dyer Police Department and Superior Ambulance were dispatched to a vehicle-versus-pedestrian accident. Due to the severity of injuries, the Dyer Fire Department requested an emergency response from the University of Chicago Aeromedical Network (UCAN).

Through the diligence, skill and heroic efforts of the responding agencies, a young Dyer resident was rapidly stabilized and transported by helicopter to the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. There, he began a remarkable journey of recovery in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, continually defying expectations with extraordinary strength and resilience.

His condition improved day by day, inspiring his family, the community and the public safety professionals who worked tirelessly on his behalf. On April 2, he walked out of the Ability Lab, stronger than ever.

On April 29, 2025, the patient visited Dyer Fire Station 18, where he was welcomed back with open arms, cheers, a few tears and endless pride. In recognition of his courage, strength and determination, he was named an Honorary Dyer Firefighter, joining the brotherhood and sisterhood forever.

During the visit, Lifesaving Awards were presented by the Dyer Fire Department to representatives from the responding agencies, honoring the collective professionalism, dedication and compassion that contributed to saving his life. The recognition reflected the collaboration among fire, police, EMS and air medical teams, an example of exceptional emergency response at every level.

—Joe Martin



May 17-23, 2026





Aimee Gilbert

Deputy Chief, Chesterton Fire Department, Porter County

Representing Chesterton Fire, Aimee has been in EMS for 30 years, serving as a Paramedic since 2001 and an EMT since 1997. Aimee also serves as the EMS Coordinator for Chesterton Fire Department. Chesterton Fire is a non-transport BLS service and operates as a county ambulance service. Aimee takes her role seriously, and just like every job she handles, there are no short cuts taken. She will even respond to EMS calls herself if the engine crew is busy and provide treatment.

She has great bedside manners and truly cares about providing compassionate, excellent care. Aimee always has her pulse on what is going on in the EMS world. She works diligently to help those patients who frequently need care to find services within the county to assist them.

—Sean O'Donnell



May 17-23, 2026





Casey Keener-Hood

Paramedic, Parkview Whitley EMS, Whitley County

Casey consistently goes above and beyond for patients and coworkers while expecting nothing in return. He is a dedicated mentor to providers at all levels and has been recognized within Parkview EMS for his contributions.

He demonstrates compassion through his actions, including returning to assist patients beyond the initial call and ensuring their needs are met after care. His commitment to patient care and professionalism reflects a strong dedication to EMS.

—Dale



EMS WEEK

May 17-23, 2026





Josh Kimmel

EMT, Jay County EMS, Jay County

Josh was the first-arriving EMT on the scene of a semi verse full size Amish hauler van. Josh quickly, calmly and successfully triaged the situation and was able to direct incoming ambulance crews to the most critical patients. If it were not for his quick actions, this accident could have resulted in additional fatalities. As a volunteer firefighter for Bryant Fire Department and a part time EMT Basic for Jay County EMS, Josh is a caring and compassionate first responder who utilizes his maturity, knowledge and skill to be a very valuable asset to the residents of Jay County.

—Kyle Gerlach



May 17-23, 2026





Sandra Lewison

Paramedic, Three Rivers Ambulance Authority, Allen County

Sandra has served in multiple leadership roles and consistently demonstrates professionalism, respect and compassion. She has been a strong mentor, helping build clinical skills across the organization. She is a true hero behind the scenes.

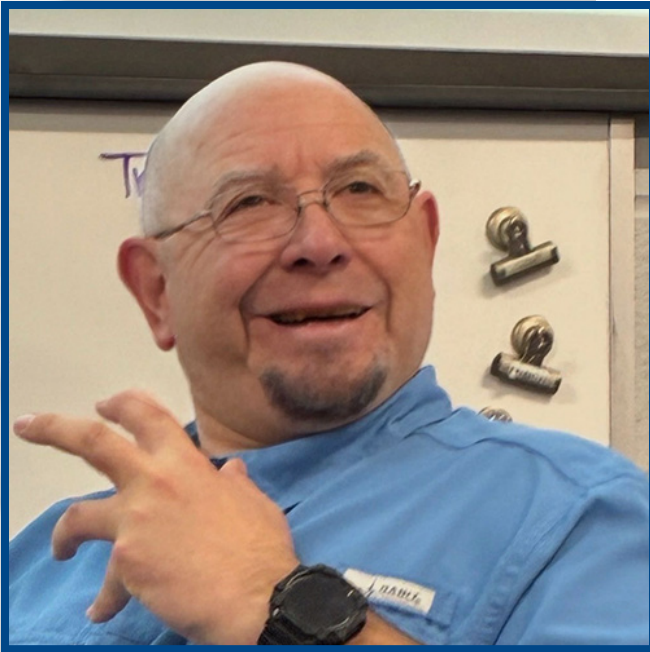
As the clinical director, she has expanded treatment capabilities and launched a successful whole-blood program. Her leadership and dedication have strengthened patient care and provider performance.

—Sarah Baker



May 17-23, 2026





Ryan Lopez

EMT, Elite Ambulance, Lake County

Ryan is recognized for his hard work and dedication to the instruction of the students, as well as the profession itself. He makes learning fun and engaging while also providing for the needs of his students. Ryan has made an incredible impact on the lives of numerous students that have entered the classroom. His passion, consideration and influence are noticed every day in his coworkers and students' lives.

—Joey Neveitt



May 17-23, 2026





Lynnze Martin

Paramedic, Lutheran Air II, Wabash County

Lynnze is an outstanding paramedic known for excellent patient care and compassion. She treats every patient with kindness and respect, regardless of circumstances.

She continues to improve her skills while remaining humble. Her dedication benefits both her patients and her community.

—Lydia Wood



May 17-23, 2026





Mac Middaugh

EMT, Plymouth Fire Department, Marshall County

Mac pours his heart into every call and into his partners. His presence makes every shift a great one, no matter how rough it can get. Mac brings a sense of family back to the department. He puts exceptional work into everything he does. His ability to stand up for what is right, regardless of who is standing with him, shows how he supports his partners and his patients. He is full of ambition and heart, which is not something you see every day in this field.

—Sidney Roda

 **EMS WEEK**

May 17-23, 2026





Sydney Morrow

EMT, Plymouth Fire Department, Marshall County

Sydney shows compassion in everything she does. She goes above and beyond expectations – to say she is an asset is an understatement. Sydney is always willing to learn and step outside of her comfort zone in order to be the best EMT she can be.

—Sidney Roda



May 17-23, 2026





Adam Niemiec

Battalion Chief, Schererville Fire Department, Lake County

Adam is a 25-year veteran of the Schererville Fire Department. He still shows up every shift with the same energy, commitment and willingness to jump in wherever needed as he did on day one. Even as a battalion chief, Adam continues to actively serve as a paramedic, stepping into patient care roles whenever the situation calls for it. He consistently leads by example in the most demanding parts of the job, proving that strong leadership is not about stepping back from the work, but staying connected to it.

Adam is also known for his willingness to support his crews in whatever way best helps the shift run smoothly. Whether it is taking calls, mentoring newer members or simply being available wherever he is needed most, he does it all without hesitation and with a steady, professional presence.

His attitude on duty is just as notable as his experience. Adam is famously positive, so much so that he has earned the nickname “P-Dub,” short for “Positivity Panther.” Even on the toughest shifts, he brings a calm, steady optimism that helps keep morale up and the work moving forward.

Outside of the station, Adam has also shown an unusual level of commitment to the EMS community. In a truly questionable but undeniably dedicated move, he once turned part of his living room into a small-scale uniform operation to help support surrounding EMS providers. While it may not have been the most relaxing hobby, it speaks to his commitment to service beyond the job.

After 25 years of service, Adam continues to embody professionalism, leadership and genuine dedication to EMS.

—David Meijer



May 17-23, 2026





Brooke Norton

Paramedic, Parkview, DeKalb County

Brooke has been a valuable provider and instructor for many years. She shares her knowledge and goes above and beyond to support others.

Her commitment has positively impacted many lives and strengthened EMS education.

—Linda Loflin



May 17-23, 2026





Jay Pendergrass

Battalion Chief, St. Joseph County Fire Territory, St. Joseph County

Jay demonstrated strong leadership in building an EMS transport program from the ground up. In less than six months, he helped transition the department into a fully operational advanced life support paramedic service. Jay's work has had a direct and lasting impact on patient outcomes, operational readiness and the overall quality of EMS delivery within the county.

Most notably, he also led the process of obtaining DEA licensure in an accelerated timeframe, enabling rapid implementation of enhanced patient care capabilities. His work has strengthened operations, improved patient care and elevated EMS services in the region.

Chief Jay Pendergrass is a respected leader, mentor and advocate for continuous improvement.

—Samantha Stackowicz



May 17-23, 2026





Emily Peterson

EMT, Plymouth Fire Department, Marshall County

Emily has made tremendous effort to become more than just an adequate provider. She put boots on the ground and went to work on being an exceptional provider to all patients. Not only that, but she also has a brightness about her that makes even the worst of calls seem like a run-of-the-mill one.

Emily is a team player who is willing to put in the work. She is a great human, an amazing mother and an incredible partner.

—Sidney Roda



May 17-23, 2026





Tiera Regan

Paramedic, Jasper County EMS, Jasper County

On every shift and every call, Tiera demonstrates an unwavering commitment to growth and excellence. She approaches each patient encounter with intention—breaking things down to the finest detail to find opportunities for improvement, and more importantly, turning those opportunities into real, measurable progress.

Tiera leaves a lasting impression on her patients and their families. She has a way of processing chaos, managing even the most challenging situations with focus, composure and just the right amount of grit.

Her attitude is consistently positive, her work ethic unmatched. Tiera does not quit until the job is done right, and she holds herself to a standard that continues to raise the bar for those around her.

Simply put, Tiera continues to impress, inspire and make her team better every day.

—Corrie Myers



May 17-23, 2026





Liam Rosencrans

EMT, Lutheran EMS, Miami County

Liam is knowledgeable across all aspects of care and provides a strong bedside manner. He is always willing to assist coworkers and contributes positively to the team environment.

—Carly Rosencrans



May 17-23, 2026





David Shambarger

EMT, Macy-Allen Township Volunteer Fire Department, Miami County

David has served in fire and EMS for 52 years and remains an active responder at age 71. He continues to respond quickly and serve his community with dedication, always the first out the door for calls.

His long-standing commitment reflects a lifetime of service.

—Russell Oberg





Brandon Smith

EMT, Plymouth Fire Department, Marshall County

Brandon is a partner I would pick every time. The laughs through the frustration, the long shifts and the chaotic scenes, he is dependable on every call. If something needs done, he has already done it. If he notices something is off, he verbalizes it and takes care of it. Watching Brandon grow as a provider has been an honor.

—Sidney Roda



May 17-23, 2026





Jerry Smith

Paramedic Supervisor, Starke County EMS/Lutheran Air, Starke County

The 2026 theme, “Improving Outcomes, Together,” emphasizes that exceptional emergency care relies on leaders who foster collaboration and clinical excellence. Jerry embodies these values through his steadfast commitment to both the residents of Starke County and his fellow first responders.

Throughout his tenure, Jerry has excelled in his willingness to further his commitment to training by successfully completing his goal of becoming a Registered Nurse and Flight Paramedic/RN for Lutheran Air. As supervisor, Jerry has demonstrated the high-level of leadership and clinical proficiency required of a top-tier paramedic. His expertise and commitment serve as a testament to the deep trust placed in his ability to manage critical systems and lead a dedicated team of professionals under high-pressure conditions.

Beyond his administrative leadership, Jerry is known for his clinical mentorship, community dedication, resilience and professionalism.

Jerry does not just fulfill a role; he elevates the entire EMS system. His contributions ensure that when the community faces its most difficult days, they are met with the most capable and compassionate care possible.

—James Garner



May 17-23, 2026





Kylan Thomas

EMT, Gary Fire Department, Lake County

Kylan is one of the hardest working EMTs in the Gary Fire Department. His patient care goes above and beyond, including checking up on past patients to make sure they are doing well. He always has a smile on his face and a funny joke of the day. He is a dedicated young man, respectful and values what he does for the City of Gary. He is a true example of a quality health care provider.

—Thomas Smith



May 17-23, 2026





Renee M. Wallen

EMT, Monroeville EMS, Allen County

Renee has been a member of Monroeville EMS since 2016. She follows in the footsteps of her late uncle, Max Meyer, who was one of the founding members of E-35. For the last five years, Renee has served as Treasurer for Monroeville EMS.

Whether she is acting as a driver or medic, Renee is a valuable and dedicated member of the squad. She volunteers as an EMT for the department at least two nights a week, as well as the Sunday morning shift. Last year, her service included volunteering as a medic at the 2025 Fort Wayne Air Show hosted by the 122nd Fighter Wing of the Indiana Air National Guard.

We are extremely proud of Renee's work with our department over the last ten years.

—Lois Ternet



May 17-23, 2026





Michael Wilcox

EMT, Starke County EMS/San Pierre Volunteer Fire Department, Starke County

Michael consistently exemplifies the highest standards of patient care, professionalism and dedication to service in every aspect of his work, whether it is working a code or consoling family members.

He approaches each call with a confident and calm reassuring presence that reassures patients and teammates alike. His ability to think clearly under pressure and make sound decisions has had a meaningful impact. Whether responding to routine transports or emergencies, he demonstrates unwavering commitment and care.

Michael is a dependable and supportive team member. He willingly assists others, shares knowledge and contributes to a healthy working environment. He is someone that you can always count on.

Michael goes above and beyond in his role to exemplify the core values of EMS: service, compassion and excellence.

—Fawn Patterson



EMS WEEK

May 17-23, 2026





Chris Ainsworth

Chief, Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Company, Brown County

Chris serves as chief of Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Company and responds to calls at all hours. He is deeply committed to patient care and community service.

In addition to a full-time job and part-time work with the Morgantown Fire Department, he remains actively involved in his department while balancing family life. His dedication to both his community and his family is evident.

—*Carrie Gaskins*



May 17-23, 2026





Jeremy Baker

Chief, Pittsboro Fire Department, Hendricks County

The Smith Level I Shock Trauma Center at Eskenazi Health received a critically injured patient transported by Pittsboro Fire. The crew later learned the event had occurred away from the patient's residence and attempts to contact the patient's significant other by phone were unsuccessful. Chief Jeremy Baker and his team obtained the family member's address, and Jeremy personally went to the residence to notify them while the patient was being transported to the trauma center. When no one answered the door, a neighbor mentioned that the family member had recently been seen walking the dog. Jeremy searched the neighborhood in an effort to locate them. Upon returning to the home, he found the family member arriving with groceries. Jeremy informed them of the incident with compassion and provided support. Recognizing that the family member was distraught and unable to drive safely, he transported them to Indianapolis himself so they could visit their loved one. Jeremy's response goes well above and beyond any expectation of service.

—Matthew Ramseyer



May 17-23, 2026





Peyton Bennett

EMT, Grant County EMS, Grant County

Peyton is a dedicated leader and trainer who gives significant time and energy to his community. The care and joy in which he serves his patients is unmatched.

His positive attitude, commitment and ability to bring out the best in others make him a valuable asset to EMS and the community he serves.

—Jordan Hummel



May 17-23, 2026





Spencer Brown

Paramedic, Sugar Creek Township Fire Department, Hancock County

Spencer consistently goes above and beyond during his shifts. He maintains a positive attitude, even in difficult situations and provides strong patient care. He remains calm during high-stress incidents and is a reliable and supportive partner in both the field and the emergency department.

—Melissa Bittinger



May 17-23, 2026





Steve Caulkins

EMT, Putnam County EMS, Putnam County

Steve is a dependable EMS provider known for consistent patient care and strong teamwork. He actively seeks to improve his knowledge and understanding of patient care decisions, reflecting a commitment to professional growth. He supports coworkers by fostering a positive, respectful work environment and is always willing to assist when needed. His reliability and steady presence contribute to effective team operations. Steve also volunteers his time within the agency and the community, including service with the Cloverdale Township Volunteer Fire Department. His dedication to both EMS and public safety is evident in his daily work.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





Sam Deaner

Lieutenant, Putnam County EMS, Putnam County

Sam has more than 30 years of EMS experience, most of which has been spent serving Putnam County. He brings knowledge, reliability and a strong sense of purpose to every shift. He consistently supports operations and patient care, stepping in where needed and sharing his experience with others. His leadership is steady and based on example, helping build trust among coworkers. Sam's long-standing commitment reflects both dedication to his profession and connection to his community. His service continues to make a meaningful impact.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





Jackie Dunn

Paramedic, Pike Township Fire Department, Marion County

Jackie has delivered exceptional leadership and operational impact in her role as an EMS Duty Officer for Pike Township. Jackie consistently demonstrates strong scene management, clear communication and sound clinical judgment, helping crews make the right decisions for patients while maintaining system readiness across the township.

Over the past year, Jackie played a key role in improving operational procedures and helping implement our new response program focused on low-acuity 911 calls. Through this program, Jackie has helped ensure patients receive appropriate next steps without defaulting to unnecessary emergency department transport. Specifically, Jackie has redirected or coordinated alternative care for approximately 200 low-acuity calls, contributing to 82 fewer unnecessary transports and an estimated 40% reduction in avoidable transports during the period.

Jackie's steady leadership has improved both patient outcomes and operational efficiency. Her contributions to the low-acuity response program and ongoing procedure improvements have made Pike Township EMS more effective, more consistent and better positioned to meet community needs.

—Ryan Ross



May 17-23, 2026





Aaron Gant

Paramedic, Parke County EMS, Parke County

Aaron is a dedicated supervisor who supports his team through mentorship and guidance. He is approachable, helpful and committed to strong patient care. His leadership and willingness to assist others contribute to a positive and effective work environment.

—Cassie Greathouse



May 17-23, 2026





Gracie Graham, Seth Green & Jeff Lawley

Paramedics, Crawfordsville Fire Department, Montgomery County

The Crawfordsville Fire Department has a longstanding tradition of excellence, leadership and innovation in emergency medical services. This legacy is upheld by dedicated providers who demonstrate servant leadership on every call, every day. While we are fortunate to have many outstanding individuals, including field training officers, SWAT team members, fire officers who work countless overtime hours staffing medic units and committed instructors, the EMS team's leadership has been especially impactful during a critical time for our organization.

During the unforeseen medical leave of our lead EMS officer, the department's EMS Committee stepped up to ensure continuity, quality and ongoing progress. This team, comprised of Paramedic FTO Gracie Graham, Paramedic FTO Jeffery Lawley Jr., M.B.A. and Paramedic FTO Seth Green, B.S., has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication well beyond their normal duties.

Gracie Graham leads our highly successful high school EMS Career and Technical Education program, mentoring and developing the next generation of EMS professionals. At the same time, she continues her own educational advancement as she completes her bachelor's degree. Her commitment to both education and mentorship reflect the very best of the EMS profession.

Jeffery Lawley Jr., who holds a graduate degree in hospital administration, answered the call when the department faced the sudden absence of the lead instructor for our EMT Recruit Academy. Jeff stepped into the role and single-handedly led and oversaw daily instruction for the program, all while maintaining his regular shift schedule. His ability to ensure the success and continuity of our training pipeline speaks volumes about his dedication and leadership.

Seth Green, B.S., assumed critical administrative responsibilities within the EMS Protocol Committee. Notably, he has played a vital role in expanding the department's whole blood delivery program to include both medical and obstetric field use, significantly enhancing patient care capabilities in our community.

Together, the team embodies the highest standards of EMS professionalism. Their leadership, innovation and unwavering commitment make the Crawfordsville Fire Department stronger and serve as a model for EMS providers across Indiana.

—Paul Miller



May 17-23, 2026





Will Hagans

Paramedic, Plainfield Fire Territory, Hendricks County

Will is a team player who consistently shares his knowledge with EMTs and paramedics. He supports others and contributes to a strong learning environment.

—Justin Holliday



May 17-23, 2026





Kylee Harrington

Lieutenant, Putnam County EMS, Putnam County

Kylee demonstrates strong leadership, dedication and compassion in emergency medical services. As a shift leader, she fosters a supportive environment where team members feel valued and connected, helping build trust and improve overall performance. She is committed to improving patient care through thoughtful feedback, mentorship and operational improvements. Her approach encourages growth while maintaining high standards of care. Kylee also supports first responder mental health initiatives and treats every patient with respect and empathy. Her leadership and commitment have a lasting impact on her team, her patients and the community.

—Kelly Russ



EMS WEEK

May 17-23, 2026





Mike Herron

Chief, Bargersville Community Fire Department, Johnson County

Mike exemplifies what it truly means to be a leader in the EMS profession.

Mike leads from the front, consistently demonstrating care and compassion for his patients, the community and his staff. His leadership is not only seen in critical moments on calls, but also in the everyday interactions that build trust, morale and a positive culture within the department.

Mike never delays in expressing gratitude and appreciation for his crews, ensuring that every member feels valued for the work they do. Whether it is taking time for a simple conversation around the firehouse or responding to calls with a genuine, “What can I do to help?” approach, Mike sets the standard for servant leadership.

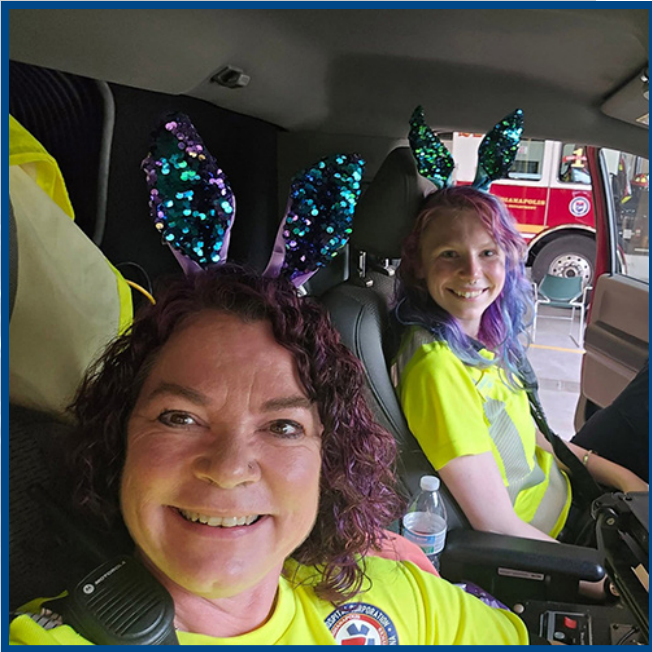
Mike’s presence is a constant source of support and stability, making him the foundation of Bargersville’s EMS family. Chief Mike Herron’s dedication, understanding and unwavering commitment to others make him truly deserving of recognition.

—Ryan Smith



May 17-23, 2026





Dana Howard

Paramedic, Indianapolis EMS, Marion County

Dana is an exceptional EMS provider who represents the heart of this profession. In the worst moments of people's lives, she brings not just skill and knowledge, but reassurance.

As a field training officer, Dana builds confident and capable providers. She mentors without ego, creates a supportive learning environment and emphasizes both skill and empathy. Her influence extends far beyond individual calls, shaping professionals who carry her example forward.

Dana is a trusted partner, a lasting mentor and a provider patients remember. EMS is stronger because of her commitment and impact.

—Nicole Tschudy



EMS WEEK

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Indianapolis EMS Academic Services

Indianapolis EMS, Marion County

As one of the largest EMS education programs in the state, the Indianapolis EMS team supports the ongoing professional development of approximately 400 Indianapolis EMS personnel. They also deliver continuing education to more than 1,200 members of the Indianapolis Fire Department and more than 200 personnel from partner agencies. In addition, the team provides initial education for more than 200 EMT and paramedic students annually, shaping the next generation of EMS professionals.

What sets this team apart is not only the scale of education they deliver, but also the intentional and innovative approach behind it. Through realistic simulation, scenario-based training, escape rooms and digital, gamified learning tools, they create engaging, high-impact educational experiences that prepare providers to think critically and perform under pressure in real-world environments.

Through creativity, dedication and a commitment to excellence, the Indianapolis EMS education team has built a culture of learning that extends far beyond their own organization. Their work strengthens providers, improves patient care and elevates the standard of EMS education throughout the community.

—Wendy Records



May 17-23, 2026





Ashli La Lond

Paramedic, Brownsburg Fire Territory, Hendricks County

Ashli consistently demonstrates professionalism, strong clinical skills and compassion. She approaches every call with focus and delivers high-quality care.

During one critical call, she identified a patient with a suspected intracranial hemorrhage and a declining airway. She performed rapid sequence intubation and stabilized the patient for transport, ensuring timely care at IU Methodist Hospital.

Ashli also supports her team through leadership and mentorship. Her dedication to her patients and coworkers reflects the highest standards of EMS.

—Chad White



May 17-23, 2026





Greg Maxwell

EMT, Decatur Township Fire Department, Marion County

Greg provides skilled and professional emergency care while supporting and mentoring his team. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure patients feel safe and supported.

EMS is not just about medical response; it's about trust, compassion and leadership and Greg embodies all of that.

—Kyler White



May 17-23, 2026





Matthew Morrow

Chief, Letts Fire & EMS, Decatur & Franklin Counties

Matthew exemplifies true leadership by example. While it is difficult to quantify the number of hours he works each week, his constant presence and commitment are unmistakable.

What sets Matthew apart is not just the volume of his work, but the impact of it. Although administrative responsibilities are part of his role, he consistently chooses to remain in the field—responding to calls, covering shifts for colleagues facing personal or family emergencies and even personally staffing paramedic chase vehicles to ensure the highest level of care is delivered to the community. He approaches every patient with genuine compassion, treating each individual with dignity, respect and a commitment to providing the best possible care.

Beyond daily operations, Matthew actively builds relationships with surrounding EMS and fire agencies, strengthening interagency collaboration. He regularly participates in training to maintain his own clinical proficiency while also dedicating time to mentoring and instructing other EMS providers.

He could easily remain behind a desk and allow operations to run passively, but his leadership ensures that the high standards of patient care within the service are not only maintained, but continually elevated.

In addition to these responsibilities, Matthew recently completed and successfully passed his Critical Care Paramedic Certification on his first attempt, further demonstrating his commitment to professional excellence and lifelong learning.

If there is someone who deserves some recognition for their efforts, hands down, it would be Chief Matthew Morrow.

—Nicholas Wall



May 17-23, 2026





Jeremy Polston

EMT, Wilkinson Fire Department, Hancock County

Jeremy consistently delivers high-quality patient care with attention to detail. He demonstrates compassion, professionalism and a strong commitment to excellence on every call.

—Sam Bullman



May 17-23, 2026





Putnam County Fire Departments

Putnam County

The fire departments of Putnam County play a vital role in the county's emergency response system through consistent teamwork, professionalism and dedication to public safety. Career and volunteer departments across the county work closely with EMS to provide timely and effective care during emergencies.

Fire personnel regularly train alongside EMS providers and contribute to strong on-scene coordination during medical emergencies and complex incidents. Their willingness to assist, communicate and support one another strengthens overall response efforts and improves patient care.

In addition to emergency response, these departments remain active in their communities through outreach, education and public service.

The collective efforts of Floyd Township, Bainbridge, Roachdale, Russellville, Clinton Township, Madison Township, Greencastle Fire Department, Jefferson Township, Fillmore, Cloverdale and Reelsville continue to strengthen emergency services throughout Putnam County.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





Brandon Ritter

Paramedic, Ascension St. Vincent EMS, Hamilton County

Brandon was dispatched to a hospital in Anderson for a non-emergent NSTEMI (non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, which is a type of heart attack caused by a partial or temporary blockage) transfer to Indianapolis. The patient had been in the emergency room there for more than six hours complaining of chest pain. Upon encountering the patient and performing an EKG to confirm the NSTEMI diagnosis, Brandon observed the patient was actually having an acute STEMI (a total coronary artery blockage, causing significant heart damage that requires emergency revascularization).

Brandon took immediate action to treat the patient and their symptoms, immediately transferring them to the hospital in Indianapolis for a cardiac catheterization lab intervention, where significant blockages were found. Due to Brandon's quick assessment and decisive action, the patient made a full recovery.

—Jonathan Schaeffer



May 17-23, 2026





Ben Rothe

Paramedic, Whitestown Fire Department, Boone County

Ben goes above and beyond to provide compassionate and competent care for every patient he encounters, regardless of the nature of the call. He is always eager to learn and improve his paramedic skills to ensure that he can always provide the best care possible.

—Erica



May 17-23, 2026





Hannah Ruggles

Paramedic, Muncie Fire Department, Delaware County

Hannah has consistently gone above and beyond for her patients. After six years as a firefighter EMT, she has served as a paramedic for several years. While battling stage 3 breast cancer, she has continued working on the ambulance through chemotherapy.

Hannah always puts others first and remains a strong advocate for her patients.

—Makayla Jackson



May 17-23, 2026





Justin Spivey

Paramedic, Whitestown Fire Department, Boone County

Justin is a skilled paramedic with a strong commitment to EMS. His bedside manner and professionalism stand out, and he consistently provides high-quality care.

He is a dependable partner and shares his experience to help others grow. His contributions often go unrecognized, but they have a lasting impact.

—Ben Rothe



May 17-23, 2026





StatFlight 4 Crew

Ascension St. Vincent, Putnam County

StatFlight 4 serves as a key partner in emergency medical care across Putnam County and the surrounding region. The crew demonstrates strong clinical skills and effective communication, ensuring smooth transitions of care during patient transport. They actively collaborate with local agencies through training and on-scene coordination, strengthening partnerships and improving response efforts. Their approach reflects consistency and mutual respect. The team also engages with the community through outreach and public education. Their professionalism, collaboration and commitment to service contribute to strong regional emergency care.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





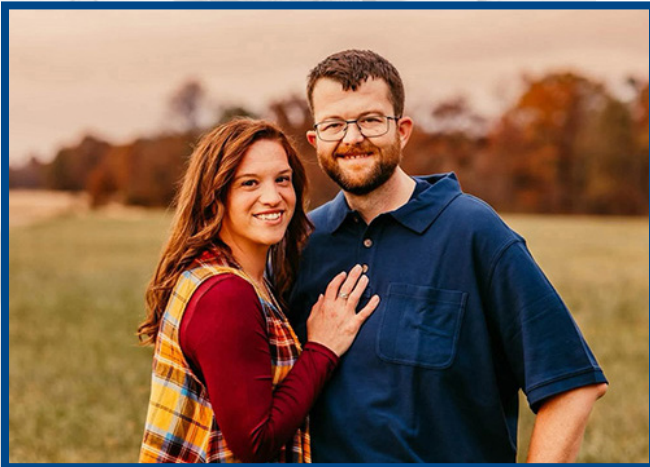
Justin Stimson & Brandon Sciotto

Paramedics, Star Ambulance, Clay County

Paramedics Justin and Brandon responded to a car accident of the wife of their fellow firefighter/EMR, where she had been T-boned and was unresponsive. CPR was in progress by local first responders when they arrived. Justin and Brandon trusted their training and experience and were able to stabilize the patient. They rushed her to the waiting air ambulance where they were told it could not fly due to weather in Indianapolis. The flight team and both medics jumped back into the ground unit and ran emergent from Clay County to Indianapolis keeping his wife alive until they got there.

Their actions kept the patient alive during a critical situation. Their skill, decisiveness and dedication directly contributed to a life saved.

—Corey Wilson



 **EMS WEEK**

May 17-23, 2026





Anthony Taylor

Chief of Operations, Putnam County EMS, Putnam County

Anthony demonstrates strong leadership, professionalism and commitment to service. He supports provider development through education and training, helping ensure teams are prepared to deliver high-quality care. His work extends beyond his agency through collaboration with public safety partners and support during complex incidents. He also continues to pursue additional education to expand patient care capabilities and improve service delivery. Anthony leads with integrity and consistency, strengthening both organizational culture and patient care standards. His contributions have had a measurable impact on EMS operations and the community.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





Stefanie Thompson

EMT, Putnam County EMS, Putnam County

Stefanie Thompson brings innovation and experience to EMS, focusing on improving operations and patient care. She applies creative problem-solving to develop practical tools and solutions, including 3D printing to enhance field efficiency. She contributes to projects and daily operations with a strong work ethic and a results-oriented approach. Her efforts support both providers and patients through improved processes and equipment. Stefanie also emphasizes compassionate care and community connection. Her background in service and commitment to improvement make her a valuable team member.

—Kelly Russ



May 17-23, 2026





Wendy Utzig

Paramedic, Pike Township Fire Department, Marion County

Wendy developed the Mobile Integrated Health program from the ground up, creating a service that connects residents with the resources they need. She combines clinical expertise with persistence and compassion to support complex cases.

In one year, her work has improved patient outcomes and reduced ambulance utilization. She currently manages multiple cases and continues to strengthen community care through her leadership.

—Ryan Ross



May 17-23, 2026





Westfield Fire Department EMS Team

City of Westfield Fire Department, Hamilton County

The EMS leadership team and support staff of the City of Westfield Fire Department consistently demonstrate exceptional dedication, innovation and compassion in serving the residents of Hamilton County. Division Chief Patrick Hutchison, Battalion Chiefs Brandon Taylor and Josh Brown, Emergency Response Social Worker Jamie Pristasch and Community Paramedic Walter Rippey work collaboratively to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care that extends beyond traditional emergency response.

Their team has been instrumental in advancing progressive EMS initiatives, including community paramedicine and integrated behavioral health response, ensuring that patients receive the right care at the right time. By addressing both medical and social needs, they reduce repeat emergencies and improve overall community health outcomes.

In addition to their operational excellence, this team prioritizes training, mentorship and continuous improvement, setting a high standard for EMS services across the region. Their leadership, professionalism and commitment to innovation make them highly deserving of recognition.

—Mark Hart



May 17-23, 2026





Hollee Winger

EMT, Clinton County EMS, Clinton County

Hollee has been an EMT for more than a decade. She is an advocate for every patient she meets.

Hollee is an all-around team player. She is so supportive in every role she takes on at Clinton County EMS. Hollee helps with the EMT class, the paramedic program and is in charge of the hiring committee. She is the first one management makes a phone call to when there is call off. Most importantly, Hollee is someone to lean on when the tough calls are weighing on you. No matter where you are, or what time it is, if it becomes too hectic in your mind, she will be there.

—Breanna Lowe



May 17-23, 2026





Ellery Cochran

Paramedic, Vanderburgh County Fire Department, Vanderburgh County

Ellery consistently delivers high-quality patient care, combining strong clinical skills with a calm, compassionate approach. He supports patients and families during difficult moments and helps put them at ease.

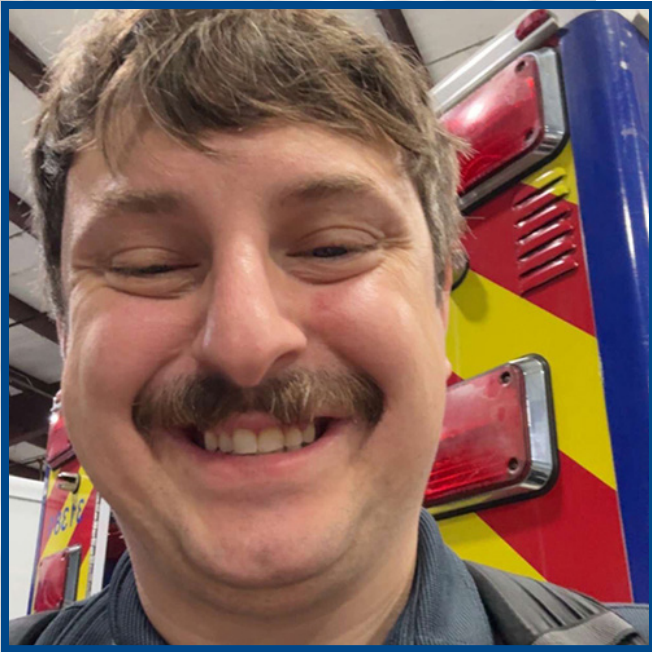
He also mentors others, sharing knowledge to strengthen the team. His professionalism and dedication make him a respected and reliable provider.

—Brad Nichols



May 17-23, 2026





Alec Davidson

Paramedic, American Medical Response, Vanderburgh County

While on a 911 call with a patient in the back of an ambulance, a man ran up to the ambulance asking for help. Alec stopped to assist the man, whose daughter was in cardiac arrest. He immediately initiated CPR, requested additional resources and provided care until help arrived.

Return of spontaneous circulation was obtained, and the patient survived. Alec's quick decision and compassion directly contributed to saving a life.

—Kayleigh Beaumont



May 17-23, 2026





Evansville Fire Department EMS Division

Evansville Fire Department, Vanderburgh County

The Evansville Fire Department EMS Division is leading the development of a new EMS program in one of Indiana's largest cities. The team is focused on meeting community needs while supporting current personnel and preparing new hires for success.

Their efforts include creating opportunities for continued education and professional growth, helping ensure high-quality EMS services for the Evansville community.

—Mathew Mastison



May 17-23, 2026





Chris Fleener

Paramedic, LifeLine, Monroe County

Chris has more than 30 years of service in EMS and has been a consistent and reliable team member throughout his career. He began in fire service and progressed through multiple EMS certifications to become a paramedic. He has served in a variety of roles, including field paramedic and supervisor, and currently works as a field chase medic. His experience and long-term commitment continue to benefit the communities he serves.

—Charity Elliott



May 17-23, 2026





Paul Ford

EMT, Monroe Fire and IU LifeLine SCRN, Monroe County

Paul brings a calm and steady presence to any situation and leads by example through mentorship and support. He always goes above and beyond for both patients and his team.

He also founded and continues to lead the county's Project LifeSaver program. His leadership and commitment make a lasting impact on both his team and the community.

—April Crandall



May 17-23, 2026





Jaydon Hoffman, Aaron Robertson, Nate Percifield, Jeremiah Boshears & David Langley

Sergeant, Chief & Firefighters, Monroe Fire Protection District, Monroe County

In March, E-22 staffed by Sgt. Jaydon Hoffman, Chief Aaron Robertson, Firefighter Nate Percifield, Firefighter Jeremiah Boshears and Firefighter David Langley, was dispatched to a reported cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, the crew found a male patient in cardiac arrest. Within two minutes, they initiated CPR and delivered a shock. Return of spontaneous circulation was achieved, and the patient was subsequently transferred to ALS care. The crew demonstrated quality patient care and teamwork that exemplifies a commitment to excellence.

—Ryan Fipps



May 17-23, 2026





Luke Hurley

Paramedic, American Medical Response Evansville, Vanderburgh County

Luke consistently handles a high call volume with professionalism and focus. He remains calm in critical situations and provides attentive care to every patient.

He supports his team, maintains high standards and demonstrates a strong work ethic and compassion. His commitment to patients and coworkers is clear.

—Tess Hanson



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Samantha Lahue

Paramedic, Harrison County Hospital EMS, Harrison County

Samantha consistently supports her team and helps make difficult days easier through small but meaningful actions. She treats coworkers and patients with respect and kindness.

Patients often note that her compassion and positive attitude help improve their experience. She creates a supportive environment for both patients and colleagues.

—Derek Hall



May 17-23, 2026





Ameya Patil

Paramedic, Bright Fire & EMS, Dearborn County

Ameya should be recognized for consistently demonstrating professionalism, reliability and a true commitment to patient care. Ameya goes above and beyond in high-pressure situations, working seamlessly with others to ensure the best possible outcomes.

His communication, teamwork and willingness to step in whenever needed make Ameya an invaluable part of the emergency response system. Whether it is on routine calls or critical incidents, he shows dedication, compassion and a strong work ethic that reflects the highest standards of EMS.

—Brayden Burbrink



May 17-23, 2026





Courtney Smith

Paramedic, Gibson County EMS and Good Samaritan Hospital EMS, Gibson and Knox counties

Courtney provides excellent patient care with a calm and knowledgeable approach. She treats patients with respect and ensures they feel comfortable and supported.

Her dedication and professionalism make a strong impact on patients and colleagues.

—Madison Johnson



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Jon Tappe

Paramedic, Columbus Regional Health EMS, Bartholomew County

Jon is an exceptional paramedic whose dedication to patient care and education sets him apart. He is deeply committed to helping team members develop the skills and confidence needed to perform at a high level.

This year, Jon created and implemented a comprehensive field training officer program that strengthened training across the organization, including hands-on simulation experiences. His work has improved readiness and performance.

Jon also brings positivity and approachability to the workplace, helping build a strong team culture.

—Neti Redelman



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Ben Wallace

EMT, Yankeetown Fire Dept. & Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, Warrick & Spencer counties

Ben serves on the Yankeetown Volunteer Fire Department as a Firefighter and EMT. He is also employed during the summers at Holiday World in their First Aid department as an EMT and Seasonal Manager.

Ben is always willing to jump in and help, providing care and compassion when the community needs assistance as a volunteer and as an employee. He is setting an excellent example for his sons by showing them that being a volunteer in your community is a way to give back and help make a difference in the community you live in.

—Misty Wallace



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Chris Young

Paramedic, Pike County EMS, Pike County

Over the past four decades, those who have worked with Chris have had the opportunity to observe his character, work ethic and unwavering commitment to emergency medical services. He has devoted his entire adult life to EMS and emergency services, always giving 100% to the profession and the communities he serves.

In addition to his long-standing personal relationships within the community, Chris has worked closely with fellow responders as an EMR Firefighter, demonstrating exceptional operational knowledge, professionalism and dedication in the field.

As the Director of Pike County EMS, Chris leads with integrity, accountability and a deep sense of responsibility to both patients and taxpayers. Chris ensures that services are delivered efficiently, ethically and to the highest standard of care. His skill in managing a complex EMS system with transparency and competence is a testament to his experience and commitment.

What truly distinguishes Chris is his consistency over time. For decades, he has remained steadfast in his mission to serve, to lead and to ensure quality emergency medical care for his community. His dedication has made a lasting impact on Pike County and continues to set an example for EMS professionals across the state.

Chris Young exemplifies the values and spirit celebrated during Indiana EMS Week, making him a deserving nominee for this recognition.

—Jeff Nelson



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