

EMMCO East, Emergency Medical Services Institute (EMSI) and Southern Alleghenies EMS Council (SAEMS) form Partnership

The Board of Directors for EMMCO-East, EMSI and SAEMS have each approved a partnership agreement for the three regional EMS councils to formally work together for the improvement of emergency medical services (EMS) across 22 counties in western and central Pennsylvania.

The intent of the partnership is primarily to provide for the following:

- Enhanced stability
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness
- Reduced costs
- Improved utilization of resources
- Shared purchasing power
- Standardization of processes
- Sharing of assets, expertise and personnel
- More effective utilization of increasingly limited funding

According to a joint statement, "The partnership will allow us to better coordinate our efforts, to work together on projects and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. We are coordinating the efforts of these three organizations to better serve our stakeholders and to ensure that the citizens and visitors to our areas have access to the best possible EMS system."

Each agency remains an independent organization, with their own contract and budget with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and will continue to serve as the regional EMS council for their respective areas. There will be no change in individual corporate structures, assets, locations or staffing directly related to the partnership. "This is truly a partnership where we will all work together toward common goals."

Improved standardization and cooperation was clearly one of the messages that came out of the Legislative Bureau and Finance Committee and the Joint Committee reports related to Act 315, and since the initial discussions of this partnership, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Bureau of EMS have been included and kept informed as the partnership moves forward.

The counties served under the partnership will include Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Potter, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland. This includes 15523 EMS providers, 16 educational institutes, 52 hospitals, and 397 licensed EMS agencies with over 1094 vehicles.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact any one of our offices:

