



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

JB Pritzker, Governor
Michele L. Pankow, State Fire Marshal

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OSFM and IDPH Recognize EMS Personnel during EMS Week

Illinois fire departments reported more than 1 million rescue and EMS incidents annually, accounting for roughly 70 percent of all emergency responses statewide.

Springfield, Ill- The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are honoring EMS personnel across the state during the 52nd annual EMS week which is May 17-23. This year's theme is Improving Outcomes, Together, which focuses on not only patient outcomes, but also the well-being of our EMS providers.

"This year's theme, Improving Outcomes, Together, truly reflects the work you do every day. Whether responding to medical emergencies, serious accidents, natural disasters, or everyday calls for help, you are there in the moments when people need you most," **said Illinois State Fire Marshal Michele Pankow**. "Thank you for your unwavering service, your countless hours of training and preparation, and your continued commitment to protecting the health and safety of others. Illinois is stronger because of your work and your willingness to answer the call at any hour."

"Emergency Medical Services professionals provide lifesaving care for Illinois residents in times of turmoil, bringing stability amidst a backdrop of fear. I am proud to join with State Fire Marshal Pankow to extend our gratitude to these hardworking men and women," **said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra**. "No matter the hour, EMS professionals are ready to answer the call for help to protect the well-being of communities across the state."

Emergency Medical Services professionals across Illinois respond to millions of calls for help each year, providing lifesaving care in communities large and small. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois recorded more than 8.8 million 911 calls in 2025, supported by 613 ambulance providers, more than 2,727 ambulances, more than 20,000 EMTs, and over 16,000 paramedics statewide. In addition, Illinois fire departments reported more than 1 million rescue and EMS incidents annually, accounting for roughly 70 percent of all emergency responses statewide. These numbers highlight the critical role EMS personnel play every day in protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of Illinois residents.

In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week™ to celebrate EMS professionals and the important work they do in our nation's communities. National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's frontline.