



City of Sedalia
Fire Department
Fire based EMS



GOAL

It is the goal of the Sedalia Fire Department:

To provide a faster response to medical emergencies with equipment and medically trained personnel to reduce the pain and suffering time of our citizens and the people that visit our great city.



The beginning

In early 2006 the Fire Department recognized the trend in fire departments around the country moving to a fire based EMS system



- At that time the Sedalia Fire Department had 2 Emergency Medical Technician Basics (EMT-B) currently working for the department
- It was determined that EMS within the department was a service that could and should be offered to the citizens of Sedalia.



- Senior staff started placing current members of the department into EMS classes.
 - These classes are a minimum of 140 hours class room time.
 - Each member must meet a minimum number of clinical contacts prior to completion.
 - Each member must pass a written and practical skills test administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.
 - Licensing is by the State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.



2007

- The Sedalia Fire Department started requiring new hires to take Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses to maintain employment.
 - Following national trends a majority of candidates applying for the Sedalia Fire Department are all ready licensed Emergency Medical Technicians.
- The department continued the commitment of placing current employees into EMS courses.



2008

- Departments around the same size of Sedalia were surveyed to determine call types and numbers of runs per year and if they were a basic or advanced medical provider.
- Most departments provided a basic level of EMS service.



2008

- The development of protocols and guidelines began.
- The search for a Medical Director began.
- Cost and equipment needs were looked at and budgeted for.



2009

- Dr. Michael Turner hired to be the City's Medical Director.
- Protocols and guidelines established.
- Basic equipment purchased.



Meetings were held with members of staff and Dr. Turner to determine what calls the Fire Department would respond to. These calls would include, but not be limited too:

- Immediate life threats
- Trauma emergencies
- Unknown/Unresponsive calls
- Injury accidents (already responding)



Information gathered from other fire departments and from the current ambulance provider project the Sedalia Fire Department could increase it's call volume by about 1,000 calls per year.

– This equates to 2 to 3 calls per day.



- Currently the fire department has 25 EMT-B employees working on shift.
 - This is about 61% of the department
- There are currently 3 more members waiting to attend class or already attending class.



- In early 2009m 4 members traveled to Quincy Illinois to do a ride along with that fire department.
 - Many ideas came from that meeting
 - How medicals were dispatched
 - Utilization of fire department assets
 - Having units respond from multiple locations with in the community
 - How quality of the service was monitored and improved



This undertaking has taken what seems to be a significant amount of time. This is attributed to staff making sure everything was being done correctly, as well making sure the department was properly prepared to conduct an EMS service.



Currently the city is divided into two fire response districts. That division is Grand Ave. This division will continue to be evaluated pending studies on EMS call volumes and response times.



At this time, current resources allow for a minimum of one EMT at both stations.

These EMTs will be part of the four person engine companies already in place in the department.



Current equipment already in place allows for our EMTs to provide:

- Automatic External Defibrillation
 - AEDs on apparatus
- Airway management
 - Suction units, airway tubes
- Spinal immobilization
 - Backboards, cervical collars
- Long and short bone immobilization
 - Splints
- Diabetic emergencies
 - Blood sugar monitors



With personnel trained and equipment in place, the Sedalia Fire Department has an anticipated start up date of January 1, 2010 for EMT services



In conclusion:

Next year, 2010 the City of Sedalia will celebrate its sesquicentennial - 150 years of city government provided services to enhance the life style and lively hood of our citizens.

The Sedalia Fire Department has a 142 year history of protecting and caring for our citizens. As we move into a new era, our Department can provide additional service by providing EMS services.



With stations on both sides of town, we can have trained personnel on scene within minutes – armed with the equipment needed to help save lives, minimize hurt and reduce the suffering of our citizens.

Our citizens are, after all, the people whose tax dollars support the equipment and training we use everyday – and this is one more way we can serve.