



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ORANGE COUNTY RECEIVES COMMONWEALTH ACCREDITATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH PROGRAM

ORANGE, VA – On June 26, 2012, the Orange County E-911 Center received Commonwealth accreditation for their Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program. Orange County's E-911 Center is one of approximately 30 agencies in the Commonwealth to reach this milestone.

The Priority Dispatch EMD Program, based on EMD guide cards and software, is a systematic way to manage emergency medical services (EMS) resources in an organized and effective manner and to provide medical assistance to callers, when needed, until medically trained field response units arrive at the scene.

Orange County E911 is comprised of eight full time staff and answers all 911 calls for the County and provides emergency dispatch for fire and EMS in the County of Orange, and Towns of Orange and Gordonsville. The team handles approximately 16,000 calls annually.

Nicola Tidey, E-911 Center Manager, stated "Receiving accreditation status will enhance the emergency services delivery to the citizens and visitors of Orange County, enabling them to help their loved ones during a medical crisis until help arrives."

Orange County Administrator, Julie Summs, stated "We are very proud of the significant accomplishment achieved by our staff under the able leadership of Nicola Tidey. Our citizens are provided a better service and chance for a better outcome in an emergency due to the implementation of the EMD program."

Callers should expect the E911 Communication Officers to ask for the address of the emergency, caller's name, call back number, and questions pertinent to the emergency. The Communications Officer will also provide pre-arrival instructions for incidents ranging from how to handle a bloody nose to how to perform CPR.

Additional information about the accreditation requirements as set forth by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services and be accessed at: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/ Emergency Operations/PSAP.htm?mode=printable->. For more information, please contact E-911 Center Manager Nicola Tidey at 540-661-5433.

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