



Berkeley County Government

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Berkeley County EMS receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Silver Recognition Award

MONCKS CORNER, S.C.- (Thursday, May 31, 2018)- Berkeley County Emergency Medical Services has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline[®] EMS Silver Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from "the awaiting hospital personnel.

"This recognition shows Berkeley County EMS has a dedicated team, focused on going the extra mile to provide quality care for Berkeley County citizens. I'm proud of the paramedics and EMTs who go above and beyond daily. This achievement is proof of that dedication and hard work."- Berkeley County Supervisor Bill Peagler.

"I am extremely proud of our patient care professionals who, through dedication and hard work, have earned this award. This is a new achievement for our department and is additional proof that the improvements we have made to our EMS system over the past 21 months is working for our patients. Our

team will not stop improving and we will continue the upward march to even greater heights.” -Matthew Lindewirth, MSEMS, NRP, Chief of Berkeley County EMS.

“EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks. Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. We applaud Berkeley County EMS for achieving this award in following evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks.” - Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee.

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- Prepared by the Berkeley County Public Information Office -