

Oakland County council blasts emergency medical services

Thursday, January 22, 1976 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC (O17A)

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY
First in a series

The next time you hear an ambulance siren, consider the fact that the attendant has been required a mere 36 hours of training in advanced first aid, but the state requires 2,000 hours of training for the person who cuts your hair.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council for Oakland County estimates more than 300 coronary and accidental highway deaths could be prevented annually in the county alone if an efficient EMS system existed.

The council, which has prepared a report for local communities, has determined "there have been inadequacies in planning, training, equipment and especially coordination."

"Practically, these very deficiencies contribute to needless death and disability to the residents of Oakland County."

THE COUNCIL lists six deficiencies which reflect the present problem:

- Public Education to enable the general public to define an emergency situation quickly and call for appropriate help. Presently there are more than 100 telephone numbers used within Oakland County to call for emergency service.

Only a few areas can currently use the "911" number and it appears, according to EMS Division Director Gary T. Canfield, that it may be one of the most difficult problems to overcome.

Citizens are not adequately trained in life-saving measures and many communities may be suffering from inadequate medical services without realizing it.

- Training and education on the rudiments of first aid are available to the public. Basic skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be mastered by the public along with basic skills of maintaining an airway and control of excessive bleeding, the council states.

In the past three years, fewer than five per cent of the trainable public has taken advantage of programs offered by schools, hospitals, Red Cross and heart associations.

Usually, police and fire personnel are the first called to a medical emergency. The council says many are insufficiently trained, indicating that less than one-third of all police and about one-half of all firemen are currently trained in advanced first aid techniques.

The county council puts the responsibility on the state which has been reluctant, it says, to upgrade EMS training standards.

• Communications are uncoordinated with a few exceptions, the EMS Council says, adding radio communication between vehicle and hospital, and vehicle and vehicle are no better.

Only nine of the 13 county hospitals that provide EMS care are capable of receiving radio transmission.

"People think the system works like the Saturday night TV show 'Emergency' with paramedics waiting to help," Canfield said.

Less than 25 per cent of the emergency transporting vehicles operating within Oakland County are capable of communicating via radio to a hospital.

• Transportation of the sick and injured may mean the difference between life and death. Although inadequate response time for ambulances is generally associated with more rural areas, the problem cannot be ignored in urban areas, the council says, partly blaming lack of communication among ambulance agencies.

Fire and police sent to the scene of a medical emergency are inadequately equipped and often their main function is to verify the emergency and request the ambulance.

• Financing and legislation are necessary to implement a countywide EMS system. Only the cities of Southfield and Pontiac provide EMS to their residents.

Only the federal and Oakland County governments have so far made commitments to establish EMS systems, the council points out, saying, "The State of Michigan has failed to make a meaningful commitment in terms of funding."

It is somewhat distressing to realize that while governmental entities appropriate millions of dollars for the pickup and removal of trash, a small fraction of this or nothing at all is appropriated for emergency medical care and transportation," the council says.

(Next week's issue, some answers to what should be done first, who will participate and who is going to pay for it.)

Your present heating system isn't doing the job if:

- It's too noisy.
- It's too expensive.
- The temperature is not even and steady.
- You're shivering.

If anything requires forward planning it's the heat in your home. Your furnace wears out just like everything else. And if any of these "ifs" are true for you, you need a new furnace now. Play it safe. Call Kest today for the finest heating equipment and the most trustworthy service. Over 35 years of concern for your well-being.



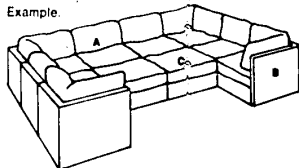
KAST HEATING and COOLING
380 S. Telegraph at Orchard Lake Rd.
Call 649-7130 328-9255 LI-2-3550
The Kest reputation has been growing since 1937.



"Bob and I are spending this winter at Gorman's."

Yes, Gorman's is a great place to spend this winter. Because you'll spend less during our great Midwinter Sale (from 10% to 50% less on many items). In fact you could save enough to help you spend this winter some place else. Like the Caribbean.

Example.



The Adult Playpen in plush cotton velvet. Individual pieces. SALE: (A) Armless: \$220 ea. (B) Corner: \$250 ea. (C) Ottoman: \$109.50 ea. Save even more on all 10 pieces (4 Armless, 4 Corner, 2 Ottomans) Now \$1,999.

SPEND THIS WINTER AND SAVE DURING THE GREAT MIDWINTER SALE AT GORMAN'S

GALLERY OF FINE FURNITURE

Telegraph at 12 Mile Road • Open Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9 P.M. • 353-9680

Copyright 1976. Gorman's Gallery of Fine Furniture

Headlee named to OU board

Gov. William G. Milliken has announced the appointment of Richard H. Headlee of Farmington Hills to the Oakland University Board of Control.

Headlee, president and chief executive officer of Hamilton International Corp. and Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, succeeds Otis M. Smith of Detroit who resigned. Headlee will serve the remainder of a term expiring Aug. 11.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and the West Oakland Bank, and serves in the State Presidency of the Bloomfield Hills State of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In 1963, Headlee served as president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. He later moved to Michigan when he became an advisor to former Gov. George Romney. Prior to his present position, he was named president of Morbark Industries.

Headlee participated in President Ford's "Economic Summit" in 1974 and was appointed a member of "The President's Roundtable," Utah State University.

Senate confirmation is required.

Contractors elect 2 area residents

Two area residents have been elected officers of the Detroit Ceramic Tile Contractors' Association.

Ed Servittor, owner of Ed's Tile Co. in Redford Township, is the new vice-president. Ottavio Marson, owner of Marson Tile and Marble Co. in Southfield, is treasurer.

The association sponsors industry education, promotional and social programs and is the bargaining agent for contractors working in southeastern Michigan.

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES!

Have a photographic record of your possessions for insurance purposes.

Call or write

SECURITY RECORDS

5947 Philip St., Detroit 48224
ph. 823-5156