

Group studies how emergency providers cooperate

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THE COMMITTEE formed last summer with original members representing the Farmington Hills police and fire departments, CEMS and Botsford General Hospital, The Farmington Department of Public Safety and the Novi police and fire departments recently hopped on board.

"We were invited to join, and we were anxious to get into it," Farmington public safety director Frank Lauffoff. "We want to improve services, and the best way that's going to be accomplished is through the communication process."

The committee's charge is to smooth operations among the various emergency agencies that respond to calls for help from residents. The plan also includes sharing of training, instructors and resources, Baldwin said.

Problems encountered in other areas are the kinds of things no one wants to see happen in the Farmington area. "We want to get away from misunderstandings and problems," Baldwin said.

Lauffoff agreed. "We see things occur out there (in the county), and we don't want them happening here."

THE BEST example is an accident scene. There's enough commotion without firefighters and police and ambulance personnel at odds with each other.

"There has to be an orderly transfer of the patient from the fire department to the ambulance so paramedics get the necessary information on the patient," Baldwin said.

Firefighters are the first responders to an emergency and are licensed to provide basic and advanced care. "We do not administer drugs, and we are limited by training and equipment carried on the trucks," Baldwin said.

That's where ambulance paramedics take over and contact hospital emergency room physicians for instructions, Arnold said.

But each agency has its own methods, procedures and protocol. The advisory committee is working to solve any glitches so problems don't erupt in the field where every minute counts, Baldwin and Arnold said.

IN FARMINGTON, officers are both police and firefighters trained in emergency medical care. For EMTs, the committee will help improve communications with ambulance paramedics. On the police side, the committee "serves as a good forum to bring problems to."

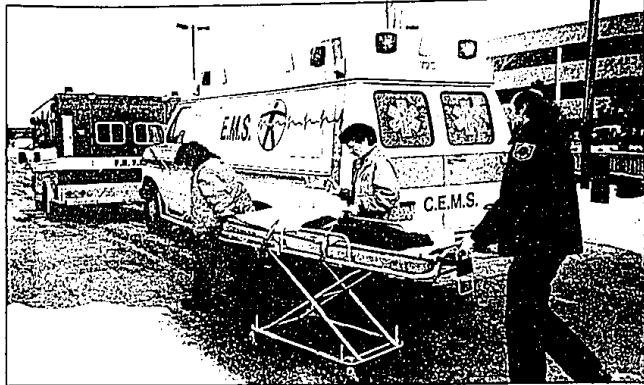
Farmington Hills Sgt. Joseph Rebb supports the committee's efforts. "It's been very useful on an operational level. It helps iron out some glitches," he said.

Calls for help from Farmington Hills residents go through the police department's dispatch center. Dispatchers contact the fire department and CEMS for an ambulance. Dispatchers may also send a police patrol car.

Some topics already covered at monthly meetings included shared training between the agencies, stress management and how to cope with tragedy and trauma.

Policies are being developed to ensure an orderly transfer of medical information between fire and ambulance personnel. The committee also can review medical care. "Is there something we could have done differently?" Baldwin said.

RESPONSE TIME really won't be affected by the committee's work. "Response time is fixed pretty much," Baldwin said. The fire department responds to emergencies within 4-6 minutes and CEMS about 8.6 minutes. CEMS provides service for 14 communities.



Community EMS paramedics (from left) Cheryl Gately and Marsha Hall, assisted by Farmington Hills firefighter/emergency medical technician Dan St. Clair, respond to a medical emergency at the Firemen's Fund office building at 12 Mile and Farmington Road Tuesday morning.

PETER BALDWIN



Janet Patzold of Novi, a Michigan Humane Society volunteer, ties a ribbon around a jar of milkbones. The contestant who came closest to guessing the number of milkbones won a sweatshirt.

Humane Society attempts matchmaking

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Day gifts, milk bones in a mug nicely wrapped, also were sold.

"I just think it's very important for people to respect non-human as well as human life, and to appreciate that animals have feelings, too," said volunteer Kathy Weigandt of Lathrup Village, who has two dogs and two cats of her own.

Debbie Pagett of Birmingham said she volunteered because there's a "need for people to help out animals. Animals can't really help themselves."

Plus, she added, "I'm an animal lover. I've taken in so many strays, you can't believe it — dogs, cats, birds, even a mother and five puppies."

EACH DONOR of money, old blankets or food could enter a drawing to guess the number of milk bones in a ribbon-topped jar. The Village Mall Merchants Association awarded a humane society sweatshirt to whoever came closest.

Michigan Humane Society is a private, non-profit group dedicated to protecting and fighting for animal rights. It extends a helping hand to

homeless, injured or abused animals.

Society workers offer several services beyond injured animal care — pet adoption, pet therapy, community education, cruelty investigation, wildlife rehabilitation.

In explaining why pets should be spayed or neutered, a society poster points out: "Every year, millions of cats and kittens end up in animal shelters, are sold for experimentation, abandoned, die of exposure and starvation, and worse! Their crime for these punishments was being born into a world that has no room for them."

The Michigan Humane Society is the last refuge for thousands of homeless or unwanted animals. There's no color TV in the rooms. There's no swimming pool out back. And the menu rarely changes. But the society's 551 rooms are nearly always full.

ANIMALS THE humane society can't find a home for — the very sick, the old, the injured — receive an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital.

"Because our primary concern is the welfare of the animals, we

fought hard and achieved success in helping outlaw the use of the decomposition chamber and electrocution in the state," says a humane society brochure.

The society's hard-line policies favoring sterilization and more responsible pet ownership stem from

the belief that they would eventually make euthanasia unnecessary.

In "Animals Have Feelings Too!" the humane society relates that one of its major goals is to "make society realize that animals are valuable beings in our world and should be treated and protected, not wasted carelessly."

military news

Tapping the military news pipeline:

● **STUDIES UP**
Army Pvt. Michael Rebtov of Farmington Hills has completed the OH-58 helicopter repair course at the U.S. Army Aviation School, Ft. Rucker, Ala.

Study included training on the OH-58 turbine engine, the transmission, electrical systems, flight controls, main and tail rotor systems, and the aircraft's hydraulic system.

Rebtov is a 1987 Farmington Hills Harrison High School graduate.

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