

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Governor Proclaims Emergency Medical Services Week and EMS for Children Day in North Dakota**



*Pictured are Corrie Geurts, ND EMS Association; Jan Samson, Cavalier Ambulance and 2016 Star of Life award winner; Jim Restemeyer, ND EMS Association President; and Shila Thorson, ND Stroke and Cardiac Systems of Care Coordinator*

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*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed Sunday, May 15, through Saturday, May 21, 2016, as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in North Dakota, and Wednesday, May 18, as EMS for Children Day.

This year's events honor the more than 5,000 personnel who serve North Dakota's EMS system and calls attention to specialized care provided in medical emergencies in children.

*Called to Care* is the theme of EMS Week 2016. "Emergency medical services are an integral part of North Dakota's health care system," said Tom Nehring, director of the Division of Emergency Medical Systems for the North Dakota Department of Health. "These dedicated and determined emergency workers help to ensure the health, protection and physical well-being of all North Dakotans. They are heroes every day."



*Pictured are Elizabeth Pihlaja, ND EMS for Children Program Coordinator; Renae Sisk, ND State School Nurse Consultant; Nicole Brunelle, ND State Trauma System Coordinator; Leann Domonoske-Kellar, Wilton Ambulance and ND EMS for Children Program Family Representative*

EMS for Children Day highlights the unique emergency care needs of children and emphasizes the importance of properly trained emergency personnel, appropriately equipped ambulances and emergency departments, and well-defined pediatric treatment procedures.

"Children need specialized emergency care," said Elizabeth Pihlaja, North Dakota EMS for Children program manager. "North Dakota's emergency services personnel dedicate themselves to ensuring that children receive the best possible care in emergency situations."

The members of EMS teams, both pre-hospital and in-hospital, are highly trained specialists ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. EMS systems dramatically improve the survival and recovery rate of people who experience sudden illness or injury, and EMS personnel are dedicated to saving lives through injury prevention, safety awareness, and emergency preparedness.

For more information about EMS Week, contact Tom Nehring at 701.328.4728. Questions concerning EMS for Children Day, may be directed to Elizabeth Pihlaja at 701.328.2953.

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PROCLAMATION  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**  
MAY 15-21, 2016

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services are a vital public service; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota's emergency medical services system consists of physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services team members, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 15-21, 2016, as **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

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PROCLAMATION  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DAY**  
MAY 18, 2016

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) supports emergency medical services, the community-based public service that is vital to children in need; and

**WHEREAS**, the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, EMSC maintains high-level emergency care providers with pediatric emergency skills who are unceasingly prepared to respond and restore children who access the system to optimum level of health; and

**WHEREAS**, EMSC espouses the tenets and practices of family-centered and culturally competent care for children and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, EMSC works with physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others to identify and address the issues surrounding the provision of optimal pediatric care; and

**WHEREAS**, EMSC develops training programs and guidelines for emergency care providers so that children with special health care needs get timely, appropriate care; and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Medical Services for Children Day is a time to recognize the value and accomplishments of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to saving our children.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 18, 2016, **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

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