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Emergency Medical Service Providers To Gather At Capitol

EMS To Gather for Advocacy Day on Wednesday, April 10th

(Madison, Wisconsin) —Providers from Emergency Medical Services across Wisconsin will gather at the Capitol to meet with their state legislators for EMS Advocacy Day this Wednesday, April 10th. Personnel will share their stories about what it’s like to be a paramedic, EMT, or first responder, and will offer perspective on their ability to save and sustain lives every day.

EMS—short for Emergency Medical Services—exist as volunteer or paid services across the state. The majority of EMS and Fire personnel in Wisconsin are volunteers, particularly in rural areas. Both volunteer and career emergency departments face a mix of financial and staff-related challenges, including difficulties with recruitment and retention, declining reimbursement rates, and limited financial support from communities.

EMS personnel will advocate for changes in four topic areas:

- Tax incentives to enhance recruitment and retainment of volunteers;
- Legislation or fiscal language that would allow communities to consolidate agencies into regionalized “districts” that are recognized as stand-alone entities;
- Modification of the budget to include a shared revenue increase, modification of levy limits, and allowance of user fees; and
- An increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates to support ambulance services.

Issue papers on these topics are [available online](#).

This event is organized by the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WI-ORH), and partnered by the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Service Association (WEMSA), Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin (PAAW), Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association (WSFCA), and Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin (PFFW).



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The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health works to improve the access to, and quality of, rural health care. Visit our website [at worh.org](http://at.worh.org), and sign up for our [weekly newsletter](#) on rural health issues.