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## Emergency members spend time with tornado victim



**From Left: Ken Weidner, Kyson Stowell, John Michael Poss and Keith Douglas**

Wednesday February 6th remains a day full of tragedy for residents of Castilian Springs TN as a tornado ripped through the quiet town killing 5 people. As emergency workers desperately combed through miles of wreckage a miracle happened. What was at first thought to be a doll was actually eleven month old Kyson Stowell. Laying in a field, cold and covered in dirt, Kyson was immediately assessed by emergency workers for injuries. "I touched every part of that baby, thinking he was hurt," stated John Michael Poss, Captain and Paramedic with Sumner County EMS. "He is a blessed young man."

Recently baby Kyson was reunited with rescuers that participated in the rescue. Kyson was described as active and playful. "He was moving around and

appeared completely unhurt" stated Poss. "Being able to see Kyson healthy and thriving after such an incident as he encountered would give any emergency responder motivation to answer the next call. I cannot stress enough how rewarding it is to see this child alive and well."

"Witnessing the destruction that so many people experienced that night and to find Kyson, it really puts things into perspective and reinforces why we do what we do" stated Keith Douglas, Interim Director for Sumner County EMS. "It really tore at our hearts to think of what he was going through laying in that field for so long after being tossed about by the tornado. I have children of my own and it deeply moved me to see Kyson playing that day, healthy and happy. I truly believe someone greater than us was watching over him that night."

Ken Wiedner, Director of Sumner County Emergency Management was also present at the reunion. "I have been going to see Kyson one or more times a week since he got out of VUMC. Ken further added that "disasters, by nature provide many ups and downs. Through the course of the incident, we work day-to-day in an attempt to prevent and prepare for them. The ups and downs begin when you "know" that the situation is bad; the same feeling that we had in '06, you don't think about it then but at some point you say 22 months, 3 tornados, this just ain't fair. The ups and downs continue when you know the voice of that Sheriff's Deputy, Paramedic, Firefighter, EMT or EMA responder, hearing the urgency, the emotion in their voice but can't get them what they need. Kyson is the up, the bright spot for me." **-By Michael Cook**

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## SCEMS seeks grant for improved protective equipment

Sumner County EMS is actively pursuing a grant that will allow our agency to provide improved safety equipment for field personnel. As part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Sumner EMS is requesting monies to purchase protective coats, pants, hats, gloves and boots.

John Michael Poss a Captain with

Sumner EMS is currently crafting the proposal. "These are not just regular pants and coats, they are specifically designed for emergency medical personnel. This gear has essential blood-borne protective barriers and is rugged enough for dangerous responses such as vehicle accidents" states Poss.

"Normally these grants are not open to EMS agencies and we are very happy to have this opportunity to apply", states Barry Clardy, Operations Manager for Sumner EMS. Results for this grant should be posted near the end of the year. **- By Michael Cook**

## SCEMS seeks grant for updated cardiac monitors

Sumner County EMS is currently seeking monies to update our cardiac monitors. Our agency has been working with Sumner Foundation who has offered to assist in all aspects of the funding procedure. Training Manager Allen Mason states that these new monitors are "very expensive and will cost in excess of 180,000 dollars to purchase".

Cardiac monitors are used to show electrical activity in the heart and can alert a trained eye to possible life threatening ailments such as heart attacks. Currently Sumner EMS uses the M Series cardiac monitor from

Zoll corporation. Although these monitors are very good and have served our citizens well, they are limited in their technology. This is due to the fact that these devices can only see the activity using 3 different views. "If the heart damage isn't occurring in one of those views then we simply won't see it. The monitors that we use now only show about 20-30% of active heart attacks." states Matt Batey, Paramedic with Sumner County EMS.

The requested grant would allow Sumner EMS to purchase 13 new E Series monitors. These devices provide 12 views of the

heart and is the standard test in many hospital emergency departments today. "12 lead monitors are the standard of care and many EMS providers use them. With these monitors we would have the ability to catch 70-80% of active heart attacks. We are falling behind and our residents deserve better diagnostics tools." states Batey. Mason agreed and states that "Our agency is very committed to this project and is aggressively seeking funds. We recognize the need, but we have to find someone to pay for it." -By **Michael Cook**



**Allen Mason and Matt Batey inspect the features of the requested monitors**



**"Through better education we are able to provide the highest trained personnel for the citizens of Sumner County."**

**Allen Mason  
Training Manager**

## April Training Schedule

If you would like to register or have any questions, please contact: Allen Mason at 615-451-0429 ext 112 or [amason@sumner-ems.org](mailto:amason@sumner-ems.org)

**April 15 CPR for the Healthcare Provider.** This is a renewal course open to all employees and outside healthcare providers. The course should take approximately four hours to complete. The cost of the course is \$35.00.

**April 22 and 23rd PEARS – Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization.** This course is open to EMT's and Paramedics. This is a one day course so you may choose the day you wish to attend. The course is designed to help the basic pediatric healthcare provider develop the knowledge and skills for emergency assessment and treatment of seriously ill infants and children. This course is open to employees and outside healthcare providers. It should take approximately eight hours to complete. The cost of the course is \$45.00 and contact hours will be issued.

## Ashley's Place Charity Basketball Game

The Sumner County EMS Professional Basketball Team was defeated in our most recent charity game against the Gallatin Fire Department. SCEMS was gracious enough to lend GFD some of our best players. Nonetheless our boys put up a tough fight and Gallatin's win did not come easily.

Rob Demass surprised everyone with his display of Globetrotter moves, Tactical Sam was playing football style defense, but it was efficient. Hoofing John Michael, well he just stood there yelling at everyone. All the guys had a good time and the comradery was great. Thanks goes out to all - Buford Duke, Sam Clark, John Michael Poss, Darren Jeter, Rob, Michael Tenpenny, Phillip Douglas, Matt Batey, Mark Carman and Mike Carman who was stolen by Gallatin "player stealing" Fire Department.. Great Fun!! -By **Barry Clardy**



## From the Director



Keith Douglas hard at work

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope this will be yet another tool in providing improved communications between our employees, fellow public safety personnel, county leaders and citizens of Sumner County.

I am honored that the Commissioners have placed their confidence in me as Interim Director. I don't take the appointment lightly and I will continue to do everything I can to make sure we provide expedient, high quality care to the citizens and visitors of Sumner County. We have a great service with some of the best EMT's, Paramedics and Dispatchers - they are the ones that make Sumner County EMS what it is.

As a relatively young profession, emergency medical services has been and will continue to experience growing pains. New technology and procedures combined with a dynamic economy will continue to present challenges not only to SCEMS, but EMS services throughout the country. As leaders of our profession, it is incumbent upon us to stay focused on our mission while minimizing the impact on the taxpayers.

We have some very aggressive goals that have been put together over the last few months. Most of these goals were developed after meeting with our employees and reviewing our operation. The Emergency Services committee has been briefed on our needs and has given

approval to work towards attaining them. The funding process is the next step in attaining our goals. We realize that not everything can be accomplished in one year, but we are committed to see that we accomplish as many as possible.

Another big mission of mine is to improve our relationships with other public safety agencies. My staff and I have been working very hard to build a rapport with Emergency Management, community medical centers and other agencies that we frequently respond with. These relationships can add many things to our service such as funding, availability of grants and training opportunities. Witnessing the past weather related disasters has shown us that every mass incident is a tiered response. Each agency has an individual role but we are all part of a larger team. Without that cohesive team the incident command structure falls apart and as a result lives and resources are jeopardized. It is therefore my top priority to build these relationships for the safety and security of Sumner County citizens.

I have lived in Sumner County since I was 5 years old and reside near the Oak Grove community with my wife Donna and our 3 children. I began my employment with Sumner County EMS in 1993 as a part-time dispatcher. In 1994, I was hired full time and was later promoted to Dispatcher Supervisor in 1995. While performing my duties as supervisor, I attended Volunteer State and obtained my EMT license. In 1996 our service began system status management and I was appointed as Operations Manager. I returned to Volunteer State and graduated from the Paramedic program. In 1997 I was appointed as Assistant Director. Some of my duties have included: dispatch, supervision, public relations, system planning, response time analysis, policy development/implementation, payroll, billing, and budgeting.

## S.T.I.N.G. Tactical Medic Program



The Tactical Medic program began about 1 year ago and is beginning to really take off. The goal of this team and any other team the SCEMS develops will be to preserve life during high risk operations in the county. Currently we have only 3 members but progress is being made to open a Special Operations Team and at that point we will open it up for everyone at the service.

Paramedics Jay Austin and Sam Clark attended an FBI SWAT school this last week and it proved to be very difficult yet beneficial. Our team members have worked very hard at making this team a reality and their dedication should be noted. Their work has gained the respect of other public safety officers and is instrumental in building relationships with other agencies. These relationships will benefit our department and propel us to a new level in EMS. Thanks Guys for your work. **-By Barry Clardy**



## SCEMS planning GPS tracking for Ambulances

Sumner EMS is currently requesting a GPS system for our emergency vehicles in the next budget year. We feel that this is a crucial project and would greatly assist in ambulance location and overall better patient care.

We currently utilize a state of the art computer aided dispatch product but in reality, the exact position of our emergency vehicles is unknown. Also as our service grows and our emergency call volume increases, it becomes significantly more difficult to keep track of every vehicle.

GPS would allow our dispatchers to visually see, in real time,

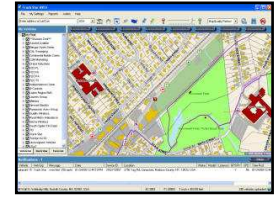
the exact position of every unit. This would aid in unit location, directions to scene and an overall visual image of our county's current emergency coverage.

This system would have been extremely useful during both tornadoes. In the Castilian Springs tornado we received approximately one hundred 911 phone calls in the first hour of the event. Our dispatchers were not able to enter the information into the CAD system quick enough, as a result the center went into manual mode. This meant that our two dispatchers had the task of keeping up with dozens of emergency vehicles by memory only, in addition to answering 911 phone calls.

"There were periods when we simply did not know where every unit was. A GPS system would have taken that burden off of our dispatchers and allowed for a visual real time view of every vehicle." stated Vincent Riley, Communication Captain for Sumner EMS.

Although our response to this storm was greatly improved due to training and better inter-agency communication, we feel that a GPS system would have aided our responses dramatically.

**-By Michael Cook**



**GPS Mapping will locate and track all vehicles in real time.**



***"There were periods when we simply did not know where every unit was."***

***Vincent Riley  
Communications Captain***

## EMS welcomes new dispatcher

We would like to welcome a new part time employee to our communications center. Vidara "Vivi" Phimmasonne came on board our team in March. Vivi was born in France and worked in communications for EMS and fire overseas. He has some pretty interesting stories on how things are handled over there. Vivi is fluent in six languages including French, German and Spanish. We welcome him aboard and feel that he will be a great asset to the communications department. **-By Vincent Riley**

## EMS utilizes Doppler weather software

After the first Tornado in April 2006, Sumner EMS along with the Sumner E-911 office began a search for weather software. "We always relied on cable to bring us the weather but during that storm the cable was the first thing to go" stated Vincent Riley Communications, Captain for Sumner EMS. After looking at several software packages Sumner EMS settled on a product by GRLevelx Labs.

This software allows us to obtain feeds directly from any Doppler radar in the country in near real time. We are able to zoom down to the street level and utilize several different views such as relative velocity, rain totals, composite reflectivity and many other tools. Also by utilizing a separate data package we can view lightning strikes and intensity, weather warnings and on the ground spotter reports. All of this data helps our dispatch staff warn field crews and other agencies of pending weather situations.

Since SCEMS installed this software Buddy Shaffer, Director of the Sumner E-911 Office has generously provided the same system to Sumner County Sheriff, Gallatin PD, Hendersonville PD and Portland PD. The E-911 office pays all yearly fees while Michael Cook and Vincent Riley at Sumner EMS provide installation and annual training to each dispatch center **-By Michael Cook**



## Sumner County EMS

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### Contributors:

Public Information Officer & Technology Manager : Michael Cook

Interim Director : Keith Douglas

Deputy Director : Barry Clardy

Training Manager: Allen Mason

Communication Captain: Vince Riley

## About Us

Sumner County Emergency Medical Services is a local government entity in the State of Tennessee. We are the 911 provider for the county and accommodate emergency and convalescent transportation as well

Every Advanced Life Support equipped ambulance carries at least one licensed Paramedic. Sumner EMS is also an "A" rated service by the state of Tennessee, which is the highest rating available

We currently have 9 Stations with 10 Advanced Life Support Ambulances. We also staff 6 Basic Units during the weekdays for convalescent and non emergency transport.

Gallatin 2 ALS Units, 6 Convalescent Units

Hendersonville 3 Units

Portland 1Units

Westmoreland 1 Unit

Oak Grove 1 Unit

Castilian Springs 1 Unit

White House 1 Unit



## Employee Spotlight – Hunter Henson



**Paramedic/RN Hunter Henson**

**Years at Sumner:** 9 years in April, 2008. **Years in EMS:** 10 years.

**What made you decide to enter EMS?** At first, job security because EMS would always be needed. Then after having the opportunity to help someone and feeling as if I impacted their lives in a positive way, I have been hooked ever since.

**Brief Educational History:** Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology from Lipscomb University; Associate's Degree in Paramedics from Volunteer State Community College; Associate's Degree in Nursing from Tennessee State University.

**Certifications:** Licensed Paramedic & Registered Nurse; National Registered Paramedic; EMT Instructor; Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Provider & Instructor; Pediatric Advanced Life

Support (PALS); Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS); Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) Provider & Instructor; Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP); Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS); Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP); Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS).

**Do you enjoy Sumner EMS and how has the field changed since you started into it?** I really enjoy working for Sumner EMS. I honestly believe that there is no better place to work. Yes, we've had some troubles through the years, but nothing different from what other services have. This field changes almost everyday and treatments have been getting better to improve patient care.

**Any community activities that you may be involved in:** I teach several CPR classes a year for the community and help out occasionally with child car seat checkpoints. I've also been training to run the full country music marathon to raise money for Special Kids of TN.

**Family / Future Plans:** I've been married 11 years to my wonderful and supporting wife, Katie. We also have two wonderful children, Evan (age 6) and Emma (age 1). To be a loving husband to my wife and father to my kids, and to retire at Sumner County EMS doing the job that I love.