In this special edition we would like to recognize the outstanding contributions made by our many EMS providers and leaders throughout Contra Costa County. We are grateful to each of you for the job you do all year long. Unfortunately, even though we would like to, it is not possible to acknowledge each of you by name. You are our Best Practice Heroes and as such your efforts are setting standards of excellence in our community. Thank you for that!

We are excited to have new players in our Public Safety Defibrillation program. AEDs have moved into the hands of the police resulting in numerous saves in the field. Currently Brentwood, Antioch, Pittsburg, Hercules, Kensington, Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, Alamo, Danville and San Ramon Police carry AEDs.

The SMARTTT report outcomes showed John Muir Walnut Creek’s Trauma Program ranking among the highest nationwide in quality of care. Recognition of this magnitude speaks volumes to the efforts of the Trauma System in Contra Costa. This accomplishment is supported by a dedicated team of fire and transport EMTs and Paramedics, MICNs, air transport, prehospital CQI coordinators, nurses, trauma center physicians, surgeons and many others.

**Our STEMI Program is Working and You’re to Blame!**

Our STEMI program launched in September 2008 and has had tremendous success because of each of you! We knew that this program would take a huge coordinated effort with dispatch, first responders, transport providers, STEMI Center emergency department and cath lab personnel working in concert to provide excellence in patient care. Since September our first contact with EMS provider to intervention times improved from 122 minutes to 75 minutes.

As recently as this week a door to intervention time of 26 minutes was demonstrated by ECCF Eng 59 Earhart and Scott and AMR crew Richard Garner and Jayson Ainsworth. Our best time yet has been a 24 minute door to intervention with a 911 to intervention time of 55 minutes by CCCFPD crew Charles Stark, Sidney Salesky and Ed Estrada and AMR crew Jennifer Cowell and Helene Profeit. This is 35 minutes below the national standard of 90 minutes putting Contra Costa STEMI System out front in STEMI System performance! You have proven yourselves. Don’t be surprised when the cardiologist is waiting in the ambulance bay when you arrive.

When the 12 lead showed “Suspect Acute MI” Capt. Woods, Eng. Gleeson, and FF Scott Sawyer went into action notifying AMR’s Luke Hayden and Scott Murphy. The AMR Unit notified JMMC Concord even before they arrived on scene. A short scene time, 6 minutes, meant that the patient made it to the ED before he arrested—he was resuscitated—taken directly to the cath lab and did very well. Now that’s how the system is supposed to work.

This February Rodeo-Hercules Fire crew’s (Capt. Houseman, Eng. Coleman, FF Clark) rapid on-scene 12 leads within 2 minutes of arrival contributed to a 10 minute scene time with 911 call to door time of 35 minutes.

In March San Ramon Fire crew Simmons, Rossen, and Halsey demonstrated the “right stuff” working with San Ramon Regional STEMI Center resulting in a 911 to intervention time of 53 minutes in a critical STEMI patient.

A cardiac arrest and a STEMI too—and we saved them!

A bystander on the treadmill assisted 24 Hour Fitness Staff in applying their AED and giving a single shock with ROSC—Ted Ackerson and Jonathan Keeler (AMR) and Engine 5’s crew—Gonzalez, Colbath and Bruce took over care—the patient went straight to cath lab at JMMC Concord. With a stent placed in his 99% occluded LAD he went home neurologically intact.

A gentleman collapsed in his coworkers arms —CPR was started—an AED used. Engine 9, Jezek, Lindsey and Campbell arrived to find him awake and alert—their 12 lead showed a STEMI and 2 weeks into our STEMI System a STEMI alert was called—PCI was done and the patient was discharged home 3 days later. Thanks for thinking STEMI—it made the difference!

We would like to thank our STEMI Center partners for their patience and willingness to trust the field to do the right thing. Kudos to all the STEMI CQI Coordinators and providers involved in these efforts.

Thank you to all of you for your continuous commitment to excellence.
Thank you to those who are participating in the North American LUCAS Evaluation. We are excited to be a part of this project and appreciate that you are calling to let us know that you have used the LUCAS and are completing the on-line survey. We have had 32 uses thus far—the feedback is very positive.


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We love it when the Chain of Survival works. We have had several situations where having each link in place resulted in a life saved.

Casino staff observed a gentleman collapse at the poker table. CPR, a shock by the casino’s AED and the great care by Capt. Stratton, Eng. Kehl, and FF Withrow and AMR’s crew Chuck Bates and Steve Glover resulted in this patient surviving to be discharged 3 days later with an AICD.

AMR Goyhenetche and Loftus and CCCFPD Hayashi, Clement and Roy were caring for a patient with chest pain as she went into v fib. Their quick action—CPR and one shock was all it took to save her.

CCCFPD Bradfield, Stralovich, Plake and AMR Leal and Lindsey found CPR and one shock was all they needed last month to save their patient.

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It seems so easy when it works….

Fire-EMS Data Advisory Group: This group has played an increasingly important role as we fully integrate our prehospital provider data sources working to build an EMS system-wide prehospital data “warehouse.” A special thank you to our Fire Chiefs, Fire and AMR CQI Coordinators, Data Analysts, IT specialists and EMS consultants Steve Rodgers MOFPD and Chris Suter CCCFPD Dispatch for their leadership in this area.

Fire-EMS Mobile Training Simulation Program: Coordinated by Bruce Stricker, AMR and his METI transport team, this mobile program has enabled all of our agencies to share our METI Patient Care Simulator for realistic patient care training. Bruce’s expertise in moulage has been noticed outside of CCC. Bruce was one of the esteemed presenters at METI’s conference in Tampa, FL last February. SRVF’s Andy Swartzell’s expertise was also noted by METI. He too was a guest lecturer at the METI Conference.

Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths among Contra Costa County residents age 65 and older. We are participating in the Fall Prevention Coalition of Contra Costa and would like to acknowledge the hard work that is going into this project. Your referrals to Fall Prevention can save lives.

Pinole Fire champions preventing trauma by actively supporting car seat checkups. Together with the Contra Costa Car Seat Coalition they checked 22 seats in March of 2009. Thanks to Steve Akre and Jerry Short of Pinole Fire.

Then there are the calls that we do routinely, the every day calls, that no one ever gets a pat on the back or an atta boy for. Those are the calls that make this system what it is—you are the proud partners in your community.

Be proud of what you do—we are proud of you!

Contra Costa Cardiac Survival Rates
Contra Costa is on the national map with participation in the Cardiac Care Registry for Enhanced Survival (CARES). Cardiac Survival is considered a measure of an EMS System’s Performance. Contra Costa EMS Agency thanks all our prehospital stakeholder agencies and hospital partners in helping us “make the difference” in our community!

Our first quarter of 2009 Contra Costa statistics:

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<th>Cardiac Survival Measure</th>
<th>Contra Costa</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utstein</td>
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<td>21.3%</td>
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<td>EMS Witnessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shockable/Bystander</td>
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Please contact us with your comments or concerns. Visit our website @ www.cccems.org