

**Life EMS Ambulance of Lake County
Ambulance Report
January 1 through March 31, 2022**

Ambulance operations for Life EMS of Lake County ran well during the first quarter of 2022. During this reporting period, Life EMS completed 578 ambulance transports and advanced assessments in Lake County. This is 103 more than during the same time period last year.

The Lake County operation continues to be well staffed with 10 full-time paramedics and 3 EMTs. One of our EMTs is halfway through our paramedic course, another is registering for a class starting in the fall. I should note that this is the only Life EMS operation that is fully staffed at this time.

Much of our focus has been retention activities geared toward keeping the current associates on-board as we simultaneously seek to attract new people into the field, and to our organization. With this goal in mind, Life EMS has taken a health and safety-based approach towards retention, supporting our pre-hospital providers physical well-being through the securement of seventy (70) Stryker power-load system. The Stryker PowerLoad is an innovative patient and provider safety enhancement that helps reduce cot loading / unloading incidents, promotes safe patient-handling techniques, and protects EMS personnel from repetitive spinal loading and subsequent cumulative back trauma. PowerLoad works by communicating wirelessly with the Stryker PowerPro stretcher to eliminate the need to “steer” the cot into and out of the ambulance while simultaneously taking on the physical stress of loading and unloading up to 700 pounds per cycle (based on an 870lb safe working load including a PowerPro stretcher). In their research, Stryker found that one in four caregivers suffer a career-ending back injury within their first four years of employment in the EMS field. They go on to explain that some 78 percent of compensation days in the U.S. are related to low back strains and offer that the complete powered patient transfer system made up of the PowerPro stretcher and PowerLoad helps reduce personnel downtime which has become more critical than ever in the face of EMS provider shortages. In addition to safety, the system enhances scene performance by continuously charging the Power-Pro stretcher battery pack while docked ensuring optimal readiness for patient movement. Life EMS currently operates six (6) PowerLoad units throughout our fleet and with this expansion will have a completely powered patient handling system on ALL front-line ambulances. This purchase will place Life EMS as one of the largest “all PowerLoad” EMS fleets in the Midwest. We anticipate delivery of the PowerLoad systems to take place during May 2022 with the retrofit of our existing ambulances to be underway in early June progressing in cadence through July and August of 2022. We hope this will demonstrate a corresponding reduction of lift related injuries while simultaneously improving associate up-time and ultimately, provider retention.

During this reporting period we had one success to report with a STEMI patient. A 56-year-old Luther resident was rapidly identified to be having a lateral wall STEMI. Shortly after transport had begun, he went into cardiac arrest. He was immediately defibrillated, and CPR was initiated. He was successfully resuscitated and transported to Reed City. AeroMed was unable to fly so it was a short 13 minute stop and the same crew transported him directly to the Meijer Heart Center cardiac catheterization lab. He was found to have a 100% occlusion of the left anterior descending artery, the most dangerous artery to be blocked. The artery was successfully stented and he was discharged home three days later!

During this reporting period, Life EMS responded to 5 requests for medical standby/rehab for fire events in Lake County for the health and safety of Lake Co. firefighters.

Thank you for allowing Life EMS to provide ambulance service to Lake County.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Stockhill
Director of North Operations
Life EMS Ambulance