

UW-Police Dept. First Responders

-HISTORY-

In 2007 sophomore Emily Anstadt started Student Emergency Medical Services as an interest group for undergraduate students. The student organization attracted over 80 members in its first semester, and has continued to attract new members through unique hands-on learning and volunteering opportunities. Through a membership in Student EMS, students can take a free American Heart CPR course, attend EMS related trainings, shadow paramedics, work on campus safety projects, and volunteer at EMS events.

About half of Student EMS members take an Emergency Medical Technician training class through a technical college before or during their undergraduate careers. Many students volunteer as EMTs with services in Dane County, but some are unable to use their license because of a lack of transportation to neighboring communities.

Early in 2008, Anstadt partnered with freshman Katie Egan with a shared vision of starting an emergency medical service on campus to build a safer campus community and to open a new opportunity to students with an EMT license. During a meeting with Associate Dean of Student Kevin Helmkamp, Anstadt and Egan were directed to the UW Division of Recreational Sports as a possible partner. Recreational Sports had a void in on-scene emergency care for their athletes and supporters, and felt this service was needed at events which can attract 200-2,000 students and fans.



With a team of other certified EMTs, Egan and Anstadt educated themselves in the steps needed to become a licensed service under the State of Wisconsin. UW Hospital Emergency Department physician Peter Falk enthusiastically supported the group and agreed to serve as the founding medical director. The group found support through a partnership with the University of Wisconsin Police Department, and thus acquired its name of UWPD First Responders.

The founding advisory committee includes Katie Egan, Service Director; Emily Anstadt, Infection Control Officer; JP Geygan, Quality Control; Jon Letko, Training Officer; Peter Falk, Medical Director; Michael Newton, UWPD Unit Commander; and Brandi Schaefer, UWPD Unit Coordinator.

The University of Wisconsin Police Department First Responders received State approval and began operations in the Fall of 2009. Although all members will be licensed at or above the EMT-Basic level, the service will function at a First Responder level and will not transport patients. The First Responders will work closely with Madison Fire Rescue in the care of patients who need transport to a local hospital. The service will operate at special events across campus, including Recreational and Club sporting events and events staffed by the UW Police Department.

The group hopes to integrate into the greater UW community by recruiting not only undergraduate students, but also graduate students, faculty, and alumni who are currently licensed at EMTs.

