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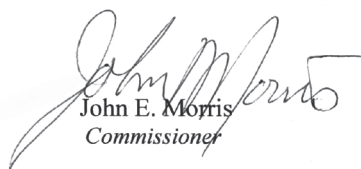
First authorized by President Gerald Ford in 1973, National EMS Week is a time for the public to recognize and show appreciation for the people who perform the work of Emergency Medical Services. This year, May 15-21 has been designated as National EMS Week.

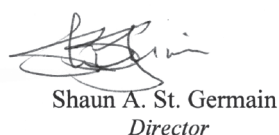
“Called to Care” is this year’s theme. We are all called to care. For our communities, families, and each other. Those of us in EMS are called to care every day. Every shift. Every hour. All across Maine. From Kittery to Fort Kent. In Portland to Caribou. In Jackman or Eastport. Whether working in a dispatch center or on an ambulance or in a hospital. Whether volunteering in the local community. working full-time or part-time, or just being there whenever needed, EMS providers in Maine give a level of comfort and security to people throughout our State.

We ask a lot of those who support the Maine EMS system. Protocols evolve and equipment changes. More time and training are required to learn and perfect the skills and knowledge needed in order to provide care to the sick and injured. We ask that EMS providers be ready at any time, for any emergency. Did you know that Emergency Medical Dispatchers must complete a Priority Dispatch EMD course before they are allowed to take your emergency calls? And that they have a complete 24 hours of continuing education every 2 years in order to maintain their certifications? Or that the EMT that shoes up at your door has completed nearly 200 hours of training and passed a rigorous testing process before they ever perform patient care?

None of this would be possible without the women and men of our Maine EMS system being “Called to Care.”

Please take some time to read through this insert. You’ll find articles about the people who make up our system. We hope that you’ll come away with a little more information than you may have had before. And we hope you’ll take an opportunity to thank your local EMS providers.

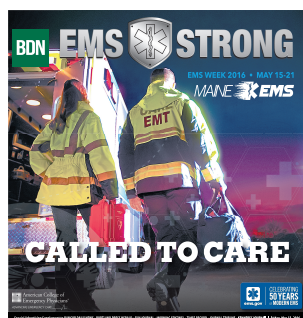

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The material in this section was produced by Nancy McGinnis, a freelance writer and photographer who has also been a member of the Maine EMS community for over 25 years. Learn more at www.facebook.com/communicado.words.and.images

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