

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services accredits Eagle County Paramedic Services for the Tenth Time

- *EC Paramedics has been accredited by the organization since 1996*

EDWARDS, Colo.--April 7, 2022--Eagle County Paramedic Services, which serves Eagle County with five stations from Vail to Gypsum, has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for its compliance with national standards of excellence. EC Paramedics is one of more than 180 ambulance services in the country to successfully complete the voluntary review process which included completion of a comprehensive application and on-site review by national experts in emergency medical services. With this achievement, EC Paramedics is one of six ambulance services to be accredited in the state of Colorado; it was one of the first to achieve accreditation in 1996.

CAAS is a non-profit organization which was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. The primary focus of the Commission's standards is high-quality patient care. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the ambulance service's total operation and its relationships with other agencies, the general public and the medical community. The Commission's standards often exceed state or local licensing requirements.

"Achieving CAAS accreditation is a lengthy, arduous process but it represents our firm commitment to our patients and community," said Jim Bradford, COO and co-CEO of Eagle County Paramedic Services. "We continuously strive to not only achieve our goals but to surpass them; we view accreditation as another step toward excellence."

The accreditation process includes a comprehensive self-assessment, which includes compiling documentation to support the more than 100 standards outlined by CAAS, and an independent outside review of the District. This independent process provides verification to the EC Paramedics Board of Directors, local government, the medical community and others that quality care is provided to the community.

Eagle County Paramedic Services received a perfect score.

"Our staff has been key to our successful completion of the process. I think it gives the feeling of prestige and pride to work in an accredited ambulance service," said Amy Gnojek, CFO and co-CEO of Eagle County Paramedic Services. "Our entire team played a valuable role in our ability to meet the Commission's high standards. We have once again achieved accreditation but it's only a stimulus for continued improvement."

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About Eagle County Paramedic Services

Eagle County Paramedic Services (ECPS) operates ambulances using five stations from Gypsum to Vail, with up to 14 ambulances providing 24-7, 365-day coverage. Last year, Eagle County Paramedic Services answered 5,900 calls from Vail Pass to Hanging Lake. ECPS transports people having medical emergencies, conducts community health services to underserved people in Eagle County and also conducts education and training programs. For more information about the district, visit eaglecountyparamedics.com or call 970-926-5270.

About CAAS

In March 1982, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) sponsored a Needs Assessment Workshop in Kansas City, MO to analyze the status of the EMS industry. The participants compiled a list of the 20 most pressing issues facing emergency medical services, the first of which was the need for high quality industry standards. In May 1984, the AAA Board of Directors authorized the formation of its Ad Hoc Committee on Accreditation and Standards. The standards that grew out of this committee's work were consensus-based—with input from professionals across the EMS industry. The development of the process by which an agency could become certified to these standards followed.

In 1990, an independent Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) was incorporated, bringing together a board of representatives from the American Ambulance Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, the National Association of EMS Physicians, and the National Association of State EMS Directors. In 1993, the first agencies were accredited by the Commission.

Currently, there are more than 180 CAAS-accredited agencies in 39 U.S. states, Canada and the West Indies, with more than 200 agencies working on new applications.