



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vincent P. Meconi
Secretary

Jay Lynch
Communications Director
(302) 255-9037 - Office
Jay.Lynch@state.de.us

SEE HOW YOUR LIFE COULD BE SAVED!
Emergency Response Demonstration at State Fair

Wailing sirens, flashing emergency lights and the Delaware State Police helicopter will respond to a mock car crash at the Delaware State Fair on Sunday, July 23. This free and exciting emergency response demonstration will be held at 12:45 p.m. on the track at the Wilmington Trust Grandstand.

"Answering a 911 Call," an emergency response event, will follow two traffic crash victims from the 911 call to the police, fire, ambulance, paramedic and medical personnel response. Coordinated by Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Delaware State Fair, the demonstration will feature emergency responders treating, stabilizing and transporting the patients. A narrator will explain the action on the field. The Delaware State Police helicopter will simulate transport of one individual to Delaware's Regional Trauma Center at Christiana Hospital. An ambulance will transport the other victim to a simulated community trauma center in a local emergency department, where the patient will receive treatment for injuries sustained in the crash.

"Traumatic injury is the top killer and disabler of Delawareans between the ages of 1 to 44 years," said Dr. Jaime H. Rivera, DPH director. Traumatic injuries are caused by vehicular crashes, cycling and pedestrian accidents, falls, burns, and assaults. Wearing seatbelts, using child safety seats, designating drivers and wearing protective sports gear can prevent or minimize many traumatic injuries.

Emergency responders take a variety of measures to protect trauma victims at a crash scene. "Demonstrations such as this serve as a unique way to educate the public about the work done by emergency responders," said Dennis Hazzard, Delaware State Fair's general manager. "We encourage the public to attend to see how these agencies save lives."

Hazzard suggests adults accompany children 12 and under to explain that the demonstration is pre-planned and that the blood and injuries are not real. Audience members will receive free information packets as they exit at approximately 2 p.m. and are welcome to pose for photographs with "Vince and Larry," the nation's famous buckle-up dummies. Home first aid kits, bicycle helmets and smoke detectors will be given away to holders of specially marked event entry tickets.

The event recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Delaware Statewide Trauma System, a network of caregivers who provide round-the-clock medical care for seriously injured people across the state. The system consists of eight acute care hospitals, injury prevention practitioners, Emergency Operations Centers, Basic Life Support and fire services, Advanced Life Support agencies, and the Delaware State Police Aviation Section. Delaware's Statewide Trauma System has treated 23,910 people since it became fully operational in 2000.

Agencies participating in the demonstration include the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, Sussex County Emergency Medical Services, Harrington Volunteer Fire Company, the Delaware State Police Aviation Section, DPH's Office of Emergency Medical Services, the Delaware State Fire School, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety, and the trauma teams at Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Bayhealth/Milford Memorial Hospital and Kent General Hospital, Beebe Medical Center, Christiana Care Health System and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital.

Delaware Health and Social Services is committed to improving the quality of the lives of Delaware's citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable populations.

Delaware Health and Social Services is committed to improving the quality of the lives of Delaware's citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency and protecting vulnerable populations.

#