

May 23, 2017**NEWS RELEASE****Local Hospitals and Mesa County EMS Council to Host Luncheon for EMS Providers**

Mesa County, Colo.--- Local hospitals and the Mesa County EMS Council will host a celebratory luncheon and awards ceremony **Wednesday, May 24th from 11am - 2pm** to honor local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers during National EMS Week. The luncheon will take place in the northwest parking lot of Community Hospital at 2351 G Road (just west of Canyon View Park). The awards ceremony will start at noon.

Over 80 individuals will receive a Phoenix Award during this year's ceremony. This high honor is awarded to firefighters, 911 dispatchers, law enforcement, and bystanders who helped save a life during a cardiac event.

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is celebrating the 43rd annual EMS week May 21-27, 2017. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. Back then, EMS was a new profession, and EMS practitioners had only just started to be recognized as a critical component of emergency medicine and the public health safety net. EMS providers include paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, firefighters and law enforcement.

On any given day, EMS practitioners help save lives by responding to medical emergencies, including heart attack, difficulty breathing, a fall or accident, drowning, cardiac arrest, stroke, drug overdose, or acute illness. EMS may provide both basic and advanced medical care at the scene of an emergency and en route to a hospital.

"EMS providers are a critical asset in every community, providing the crucial care patients need before they get to the hospital emergency department," said Donald Nicolay, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Community Hospital. "In Mesa County, many EMS providers work as volunteers. All of these dedicated professionals deserve our sincere gratitude and recognition," added Dr. Nicolay.

Members of the media are welcome and encouraged to cover this event. For questions or to arrange an interview, please contact Karen Martsolf, director of marketing and communications for Community Hospital.

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