

NIAGARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 28



Introducing the Critical Incident Support Team! This team was approved by county Legislature in the best interest of the Niagara County first response community and their members. The purpose of this team is to provide crucial support and resources during the aftermath of critical incident response in efforts to mitigate the psychological and emotional strain that impact our firefighters and EMS providers.

We are excited to officially introduce the compassionate and dedicated individuals behind our Critical Incident Support Team. We applaud their commitment, judge-free empathy and encouragement to our firefighters and EMS providers. The members of this team have undergone training in *Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention*, provided by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. They have also been certified in *HIPAA for First Responders* through Fire Rescue One Academy. This specialized training provides the readiness to offer confidential peer support in time of need.

The team has already facilitated four debriefings this year. Among those attended, we have had many kind words of thanks and motivation to continue our efforts in this much needed program. Many have validated that what we're doing is helpful and it works.

Breaking the stigma that has been instilled for so long. Talking helps. Don't bury your emotions. Our team is providing comfort while being surrounded by familiar faces. Together, our goal is to build a culture of care, resiliency, and connection – one conversation at a time.



Back row (left to right): Jacob Maegher, Tom Eggert, Nick Radlich, Kyle Stevener, Damian Ringler, Aaron Mohr, Jennifer Schultz, David Manth, Nick Baes

Front row (left to right): Taylor Hill, Joe Lewis, Jonathan Schultz, Miranda Hayes, Myrla Gibbons-Doxey, Tracy Fricano-Chalmers, Lara MacFarlane, Carleen Baughman, Kelley Young, Amanda Ohlson [not pictured: Zachary Wodo]

Our 2025 Sparky Scavenger Hunt Winner!



Congratulations to Kaylee from Wright's Corners for winning our "Find Sparky Scavenger Hunt" at this years Niagara County Fair! With the help of the Wright's Corners Volunteer Fire Company, Kaylee was able to get a ride to school on a fire truck!

Thank you to Chief McKnight and the volunteers at Wright's Corners for making this possible!

Trunk or Treat 2025

We had a beautiful day this year for our 7th Annual Trunk or Treat at SUNY Niagara. Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement Agencies from all over Niagara County came out and made this another successful year!

Thank you to all the agencies that came out and made it a great day!





Now that winter is here, below are some tips to keep your family and home safe!

- Make sure you clear all snow and ice from around your furnace, water heater, and generator vents
- Keep flammable items 3 feet from heating sources (furnaces, fire places, space heaters)
- If you use a fireplace, make sure you have your chimney professionally cleaned and inspected yearly
- Make sure your smoke detectors and CO detectors are working properly
- And only use generators and grills outside, with the exhaust pointed away from the home





Be fire smart

with electricity in your home.

45,000 

There are approximately **45,000** home electrical fires each year.



Half of all home electrical fires involve lighting equipment or home electrical wiring.



Home electrical fire deaths peak between **midnight and 8 a.m.**



Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **November through March.**

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a coffee maker, space heater or microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.



Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.



Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.



FEMA



U.S. Fire Administration

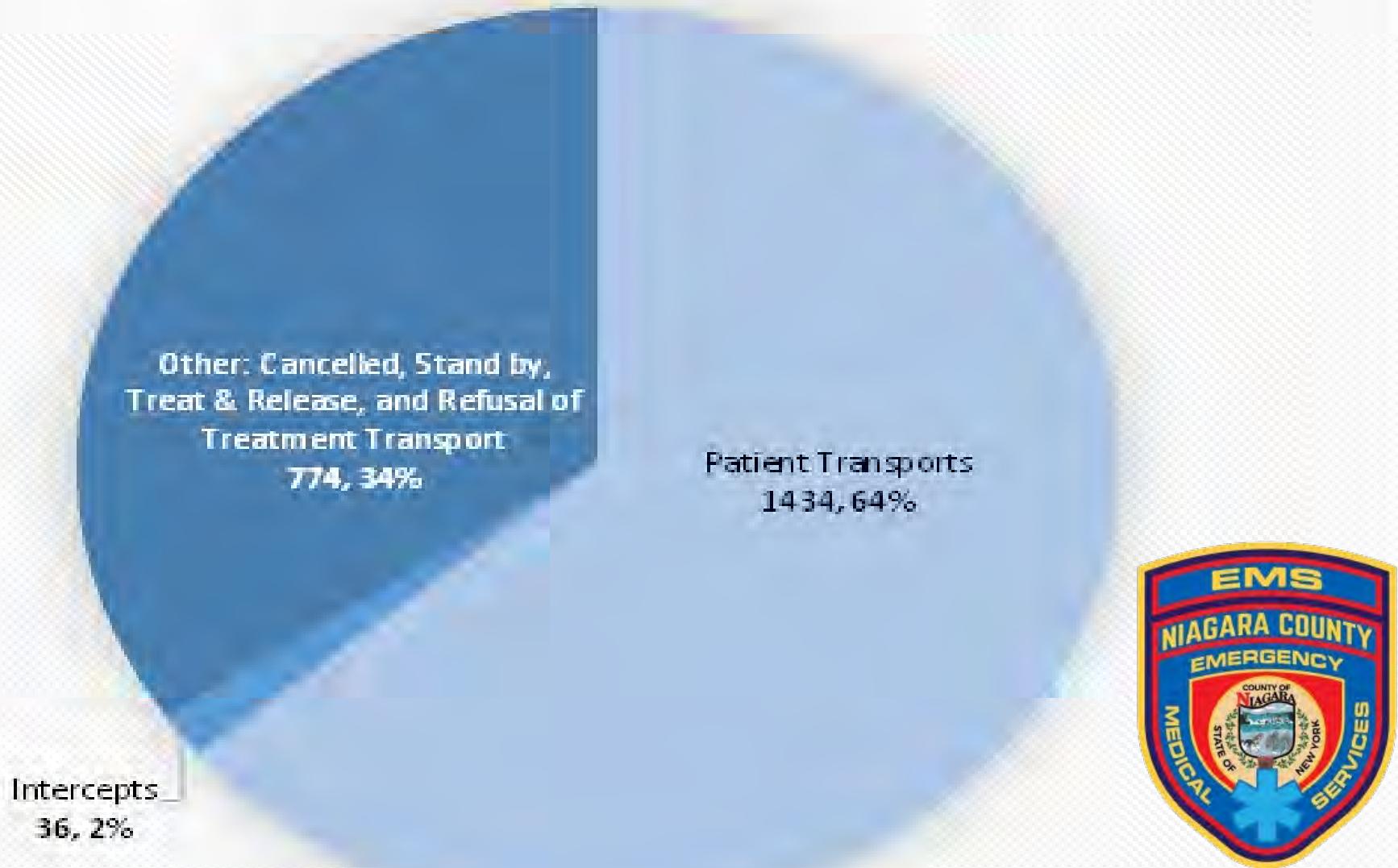


For more information about electrical fire safety, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org/public-education.

Niagara County EMS Data

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
2023 Total Requests				52	52
2024 Total Requests	381	426	520	504	1831
Requests for Service as of September 28, 2025	524	612	567	540	2243
Patient Transports	347	389	355	343	1434
Intercepts	5	15	14	2	36
Other	172	208	198	196	774

2025 Year-to date EMS Data



Operations

Niagara County EMS is pleased to announce that we have expanded our operation to a 24-hour service.

On December 21st, our night shift officially went online. The night shift will have one ambulance staffed 7 days a week during the hours of 17:00-05:00.



NIAGARA COUNTY EMS

Welcome to the team!!



From left: Ashley (EMT), Mo (Paramedic), Katie (EMT), Maddy (Paramedic), Megan (EMT) and Sara (EMT).

We are excited to welcome our newest recruits! Our new team members completed a comprehensive two-week onboarding and training program.

Onboarding Highlights:

- Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC);
- HIPAA Compliance Training;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's);
- Medical Director Credentialing;
- Electronic Health Records (EHR) Training;
- Bloodborne Pathogen Training;
- Hazmat Awareness;
- Radio Operations/Procedures;
- Forcible Entry Drills;
- New York State Mandated Reporter Training;
- Medical Procedure Skills Training:
 - EKG's, Laryngoscopy, Cricothyrotomy, Supraglottic Airway Devices, CPAP, Needle Thoracostomy, Lucas CPR Device, etc.

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the residents of Niagara County, the local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, the Niagara County Legislature, New York State Department of Health and every member of the Niagara County EMS and Niagara County Emergency Services team for their continued support and dedication to the community.



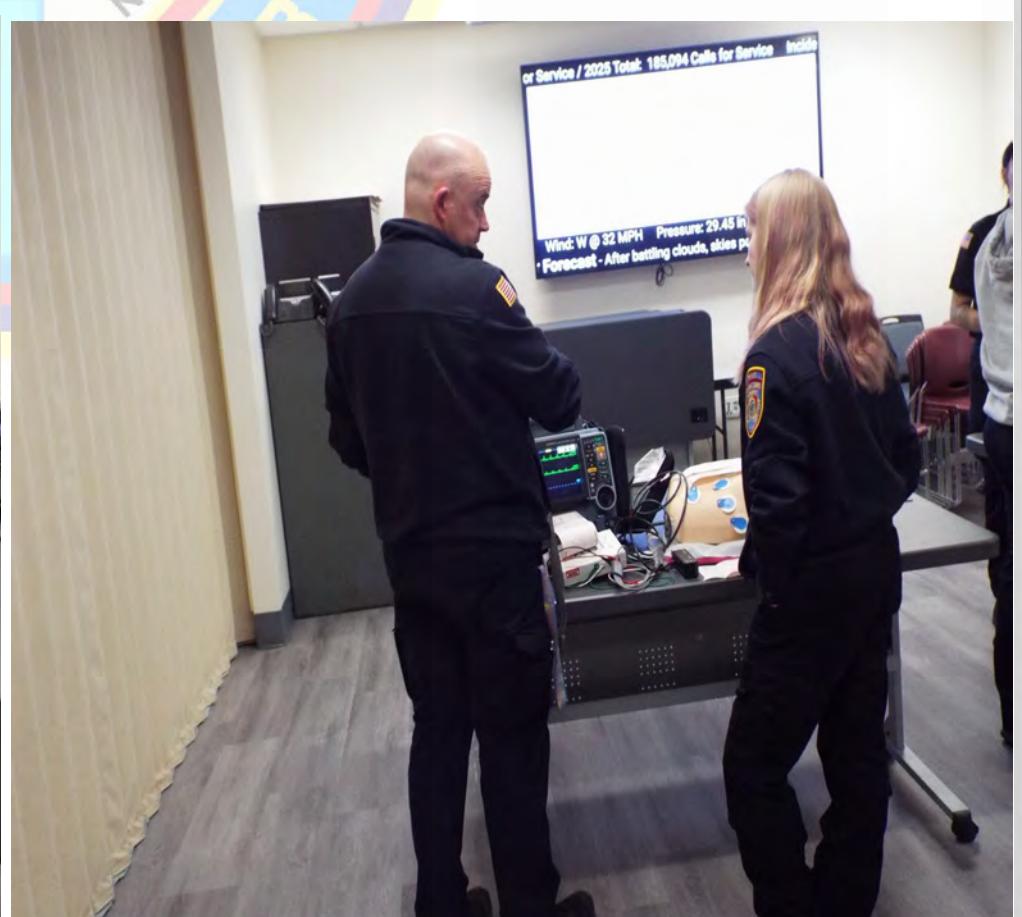
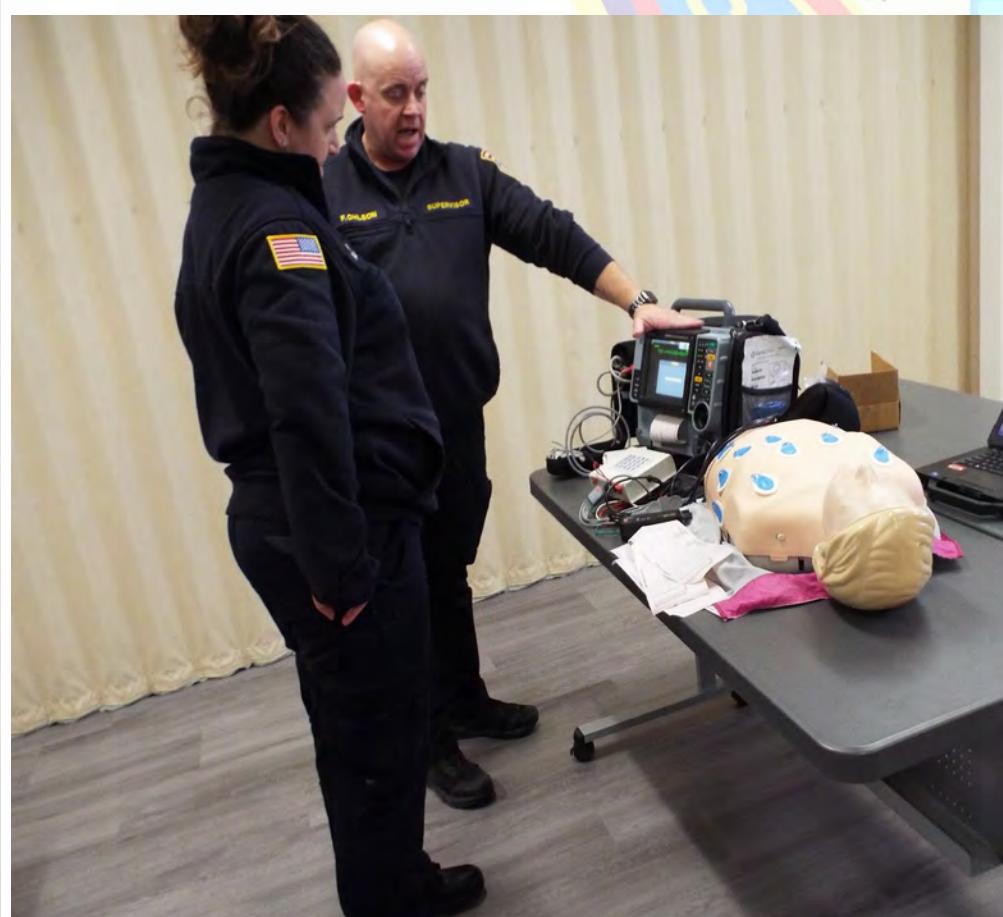
Paramedic Supervisor Micheal Carroll conducting forcible entry training with our new team members



New York State Fire Instructors teaching Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC)



Medical Director Dr. John McNamara reviewing Needle Thoracostomy with Paramedics Mo Penzotti and Maddy Magill



Paramedic Supervisor Fred Ohlson with EMT Ashley Preisch and EMT Katie Langdon reviewing 12 lead EKG's and the LifePak 15 cardiac monitor

From the desk of the Fire Coordinator

The year 2025 has come to an end, but not without making history for Niagara County Emergency Services, yet again! On December 21, 2025 at 5pm the first NCEMS night shift went in to service for the citizens of Niagara County. I couldn't be more happy to welcome six new EMS providers to our NCEMS family. The first few weeks were busy with the new recruits completing their onboard training. As anticipated, the integration into our nighttime operations has been a smooth one. Our department takes pride in everything we do and I want to thank everyone from the Emergency Services office for all the hard work, patience, and dedication to get this going. I also would like to thank the County Manager and the Niagara County Legislature for seeing the importance of the overnights and working to make this operational!

As we head into 2026, I hope everyone had some well-deserved time for fun and family over the holiday season! Please remember the importance of taking time for yourselves and your families to recharge and get ready for another great year. Also, never forget that our CIST members are readily available to support you. Just reach out to our office and we will get you in touch with someone from the team and resources that you seek. As first responders, you all are the most important pieces to the emergency response network in protecting our communities allowing all our neighbors to be at ease.

So, as we walk into the new year, remember stay positive, keep your head held high, and keep an eye on your responder friends and families! The struggles we are all in today are giving us strength we need for tomorrow! Just remember you are braver than you know, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think!

Again, thank you to all our First Responders for all you are doing and continue to do!!



Total App users 8,087 (and counting)



GET IT ON
Google Play

 Download on the
App Store

DOWNLOAD TODAY and share with friends and family

PREPARE NIAGARA



An app developed by our office to help communicate to the Niagara County community in the event of an emergency to keep the public safe and informed.

<https://apps.myocv.com/share/a58414094>

Our next newsletter will be going out on April 1, 2026. If you would like to have an article published please feel free to get into contact with us at NCEM@niagaracounty.gov and we will get everything put in accordingly. We kindly ask that all articles be received no later than **two week's prior** to the next newsletter (date listed above).

Thank you for all that you do.

Stay safe out there!

NIAGARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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