

Mission:  
To protect, promote & improve the health  
of all people in Florida through integrated  
state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott  
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CELEBRATES “EMS STRONG”  
DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**

*~ Recognizing dedication, commitment of EMS professionals  
to communities across the state ~*

**TALLAHASSEE**—The Florida Department of Health, in conjunction with the American College of Emergency Physicians and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), is celebrating May 17–23, 2015 as National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. This year’s theme, “EMS Strong,” is devoted to recognizing the more than 62,000 brave EMS professionals throughout Florida who ensure the public’s safety and preparedness during times of emergency.

“First responders help to save lives every day in Florida,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. “Please take a moment this week to thank your local emergency medical technicians (EMTs), 911 dispatchers, first responders and volunteers for their dedication to providing emergency medical services in your community.”

National EMS Week is celebrated throughout Florida with various events, including:

- **The Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Worldwide Challenge**—Held across the state in locations ranging from schools to beaches to public parks, thousands of Floridians learn how to perform CPR and make their communities safer.
- **Annual Palm Beach County EMS Providers Association Awards Ceremony**—Area hospitals honor EMS personnel as a show of appreciation for their services.
- **Federal Highway Administration’s “Involving EMS in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Process” Webinar series**—Florida drivers can learn about the role of EMS in reducing fatalities and injuries, understand the value of EMS involvement in the SHSP process, and review cases of successful EMS involvement in the SHSP from other states. Guests may sign in at <https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/shspwebinar>.

National EMS Week is presented by the American College of Emergency Physicians in partnership with the National Association of EMTs. To learn more about this year's theme, visit [www.acep.org/emswEEK](http://www.acep.org/emswEEK).

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