

**Chatham Emergency Squad  
Annual Report for 2010**



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Captain**

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## **Introduction**

Chatham Emergency Squad, Inc. (CES) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1936 that provides basic emergency medical services to the Chathams, responding to approximately 1200 dispatches a year. Members are all volunteers and we never charge for our services. CES funds come primarily from donations, augmented by annual funding by Chatham Borough and Chatham Township. We can be found on the Internet at [chathamemergencysquad.org](http://chathamemergencysquad.org).

## **Affiliation**

The Chatham Emergency Squad is a private self-governing corporation unaffiliated with any municipality or agency. We are a member of the New Jersey State First Aid Council and cooperate closely with the following local organizations:

- Chatham Borough Police Department
- Chatham Township Police Department
- Chatham Borough Fire Department
- Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Green Village Volunteer Fire Department
- Atlantic Health System
- Morris County EMS Captains Alliance
- Morris County Communications Center

Beyond cooperation in the field, CES provides the police with medical supplies such as oxygen and masks. We also create and file the appropriate reports when police defibrillators are used.

## **Mission**

The mission of the Chatham Emergency Squad has six major elements:

- To render basic emergency life support and ambulance transportation for Chatham Borough and Township residents and visitors in the event of accident or sudden illness.
- To transport Chatham residents whose health requires non-emergency ambulance transportation to and from hospitals or nursing homes (when such transport can be accomplished without reducing emergency coverage below acceptable levels).
- To render assistance to Chatham residents in such matters as moving helpless, sick, injured or elderly people to and from automobiles or upper floors of homes.

- To provide an on-site ambulance and crew for community events (such as football games, road races and other sporting events) where the likelihood of injury is heightened.
- To participate in emergency disaster work as requested by emergency management authorities and to provide Rehabilitation at fire scenes.
- To assist neighboring communities when their ambulances are not available.

## **Qualifications and Training**

Every CES member providing patient care is certified by the State of New Jersey as an Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B). This certification requires completion of a 120-hour training course and New Jersey State qualifying test. EMT-Bs are trained in basic emergency care skills including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated defibrillation, using definitive airway adjuncts, oxygen therapy, first aid, splinting, assisting patients with certain medications and lifting and moving patients. Members are even taught how to deliver babies and have exercised that skill on several occasions.

EMT-Bs must recertify periodically, currently every five years, by taking a mandated number of State-certified continuing-education courses. CES hosts such courses at our facility each month. Many CES members greatly exceed the required minimum number of courses and seek the broadest possible training.

The standards of CES membership are considerably more rigorous than simply earning a state certification. New or “Probationary” members must demonstrate an understanding of CES protocols and prove key skills in the field before being promoted to “Certified” status, a process that takes many months.

## **Highlights of 2010**

- Took delivery of a new ambulance and traded in one of the older ambulances.
- In conjunction with the police and fire departments, prepared for the transition to Morris County dispatch.

- Improved the breadth of EMT continuing education courses offered on-site. Annual recertification requirements are now fulfilled on-line freeing up training time for new curricula such as BLS/ALS, a Paramedic Assistant course, Mass Gathering/Special Events Operations and Crime Scene Awareness.
- Held several joint drills with fire departments and police departments, including a helicopter landing at the high school, four live burn drills at the Police and Fire Academy and a simulated plane crash drill at Morristown Airport.
- Added new equipment items to the ambulances:
  1. Back rafts to be used with the long board to make patients with back pain or spinal injuries more comfortable; especially useful for elderly frail patients.
  2. New vacuum splint kits which provide another alternative for immobilizing a patient's injured limbs.
  3. Yak trax, which fit over shoes and boots and provide traction on both snow and ice. These have come in very handy this winter.
  4. Misting fans which are used at fire scenes to supply a cooling mist to firemen.

## Operations

In 2010, CES responded to 1169 dispatches, a decrease of 5 from the prior year. The dispatches included 677 to the Township, 473 to the Borough and 19 as mutual aid to other towns.

The 1169 total includes 98 dispatches to Juniper Village, 74 to King James Care Center, and 10 to Garden Terrace Nursing Home. The continued increase in calls to Juniper Village clearly reflects the aging of its population.

CES responded to 810 medical calls (where the patient is ill) and 327 trauma calls (where the patient is injured). The remaining calls were to support fire scenes (11 calls) and non-emergency patient transports (21 calls).

In addition to these emergency and patient service calls, CES also provides ambulance coverage and EMT presence at CHS football games and community gatherings such as parades, street fairs, road races and graduations. This presence is often bolstered and made more flexible by the deployment of the Bike Unit.

The Quality Improvement Committee monitors our field operations by reviewing written Patient Care Reports to enhance performance and documentation. Ongoing feedback, training and suggestions are provided to crew chiefs and their crews.

Operations are supported by three operational Lieutenants and five administrative Vice Presidents who supervise 21 member-staffed managerial functions. These functions

are: Quality Improvement, Delegates, Bike Unit, Ambulance Maintenance, Electronics Equipment, First-Aid Equipment, Oxygen Equipment, Uniforms, Cadets, Training Courses, Driving, CEVO, Treasurer, Fund Drive, Insurance, Public Relations, Social Events, Food Services, Building and Grounds, Computer Systems and Archivist/Historian. Time spent on emergency calls is but a fraction of the service given by the members to maintain the enterprise.

As has long been the case, the role of the Squad in the community is greater than its explicit mission. In 2010, CES sponsored four blood drives which collected 113 pints of whole blood and offered blood pressure checks at the Farmer's Market. CES sponsored free CPR and first aid courses for residents. The holiday "Snow Village" was enjoyed by the public through a series of open houses. CES hosted numerous building and ambulance tours for local Boy and Girl Scout troops. All of these activities will be repeated, and likely expanded, in 2011.

## **Membership Status**

Sufficient new members joined in 2010 to offset normal attrition. CES currently has 84 members in the following categories:

- 53 full-time members (Certified and Probationary), serving one 12-hour shift per week plus weekend duty.
- Nine Cadets who are high-school students serving one 3-hour shift per week.
- Five on leave of absence.
- Nine Auxiliary members helping with the administrative burdens of the Squad.
- Seven students away at college or graduate school.
- One Physician Member.

While the current membership of the Squad is strong, CES is not immune to the factors negatively impacting, and in some cases imperiling, volunteer ambulance companies in neighboring communities and across the state. The squad prides itself on its spirit of "Neighbors helping Neighbors". Thanks to this spirit and the strength of membership, the Squad is able to respond in almost all instances to "duty crew out" calls with a second or third ambulance as needed without having to rely on mutual aid from adjacent towns. Retaining current members and attracting new members remains one of the greatest concerns of the organization.

## Leadership

Administrative officers elected to serve for calendar year 2011 are:

- President Sam Francis
- Finance Vice President Connie Hartman
- Communications and Social Events Vice President Christine Grobert
- Facilities Vice President John Grobert
- Personnel Vice president Cathy Warbrick
- Secretary Janice Camelotto

Line officers elected to serve for calendar year 2011 are:

- Captain Marty Sechehay
- Operations Lieutenant Alex Chorny
- Equipment Lieutenant Ricky D'Costa
- Training Lieutenant Dave Elliott

## Financial Status

CES financial resources come from four sources:

- Voluntary contributions, mostly from Chatham residents, merchants and civic organizations.
- Bequests and "in memory of" gifts.
- Funding from the Borough of Chatham and Township of Chatham municipal governments (each providing about 5% of annual expenses).
- Specific purpose grants received from the municipalities, private foundations and charitable organizations.

The Squad's annual fund drive is a community-wide appeal primarily through direct mail. At present, total income meets current needs and there are no financial issues.

In addition to providing some funding for operations, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township jointly fund the Squad's Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) - a nominal monetary recognition for an individual Squad member's service to the community. The transition to County Dispatch necessitated purchasing new radios and pagers, funding for which was provided jointly by the Borough and the Township. CES very much appreciated this funding.

## **Assets**

CES owns and operates three ambulances, replaced periodically to limit each ambulance's service life to a targeted ten years.

CES owns two buildings: one at 45 Spring Street in the Township (housing two ambulances) and another at 31 N. Passaic Avenue in the Borough (housing one ambulance). Both facilities are in excellent condition with the Borough facility having undergone a major upgrade in 2005 – 2006.

Our other assets are the customary equipment for an enterprise of our type: radios, pagers, bicycles, office equipment, computers and first-aid equipment and supplies.

## **Future Plans**

- Maintain our high standard of patient care. CES will continue to enhance its Quality Improvement activities and avail itself of the best possible training for its members.
- Aggressively recruit new members.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade our physical plant.
- Continue our practice of an annual fund drive to assure that we have the resources to maintain and improve our physical plant and rolling stock.
- Increase public awareness of CES through the local media.
- Offer CPR and first aid courses to Chatham residents to enhance community preparedness and identify potential members.

## **Summary**

The Chatham Emergency Squad is in excellent condition in terms of membership, finances and physical plant. It is a strong and proud organization committed to its mission. There are no immediate issues or concerns of which our stakeholders in the community should be aware. CES does, however, call on the community and its leadership to support in every way possible the attraction of volunteer members.