Thurston County
Medic One/EMS System

Historical
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In the beginning...
	here was no EMS System... but then evolution began...
Horse drawn ambulance in Tacoma, circa 1896
West Coast becomes advanced

1911 motorized Tacoma Ambulance

South Sound photo album

Men and women of a Tacoma ambulance crew pose for the photographer about 1911. The women wear white aprons instead of today's more familiar scrubs; and the ambulance is equipped with a bell instead of a siren.
High technology is a vehicle with equipment.
Before EMS systems
(just 39 years ago!)

- No or little training (first aid)
- No or little equipment
- No or little supplies
- No or few response personnel
- No ambulances/converted hearses
- No prevention/citizen training
- No 9-1-1
- No coordination/no system/no QA
Early Ambulance Aid Kit
Military Experience

- Civil war: field hospitals/litter bearers
- WWI: ambulance corps
- WWII: combat medics, nurses, doctors, aid stations
- Korean & Vietnam war: Helicopters, MASH, a breakthrough idea... advanced Medics
Federal white paper reports sad state of trauma care

- Congress responded by enacting both the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Highway Safety Act of 1966, which summoned a national commitment to reducing injuries on the nation's highways.
EMS Systems formed

- The EMS Systems Act of 1973 called for the creation of a lead agency under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and identified 15 components (one being trauma systems) to assist system planners in establishing areawide or regional EMS programs.
Regional/local EMS Councils formed

- A substantial amount of federal funds were devoted to the establishment of an EMS infrastructure in over 300 EMS regions nationwide. A primary failure of the Act, however, was its inability to adequately stimulate initiatives to continually fund EMS at the local level.
Seattle Medic One born

- 1969
- 9 Seattle firefighters
- Dr. Leonard Cobb
- Dr. Hernan Alvarez
- Fire Chief Gordon Vickery
- Cardiac care at the scene
Seattle idea brought to Thurston County

- 1971/1972
- George Earsley, Olympia Rotarian/City Councilman
- Chief Floyd Pugh, Lacey
- Chief Otto Jensen, Olympia
- Chief Charles Allison, McLane
- Chief Budd Ridgeway, Tumwater
- Deputy John Turner, Sheriff
- Sister Claire Gagnon, Administrator, PSPH
- Dr. Rodney Brown, Anesthesiologist, PSPH
- Dennis Delahunt, Director, Health Planning
Movers, Shakers and Creators of Thurston County Medic One
First county-wide tiered response system in the Nation!

Barbara Soule, RD and Dr. Rodney Brown

Chief Otto Jensen, OFD

Chief Floyd Pugh, LFD
Thurston had a better idea...do it countywide
1973 Thurston County

Medic One

- BOCC: George Yantis, Ken Stevens, Homer Hedgepeth
- Passed by BOCC to citizens, September 1973
- 0.5 mil excess levy to fund paramedics system countywide
- Ballot November 1973, passed by citizens
Training begins January 1973

- Dr. Rodney Brown, Anesthesiologist at St Peter Hospital, had been training basic Emergency Medical Technicians for State Patrol, local fire departments and ambulance companies.
- Barbara Soule, RN, Education staff at St Peter Hospital
- Dave Bjornsen, Administrator, PSPH
- Dr. Cobb and Dr. Alvarez, Harborview Medical Center
- Emmett Smith, Sig Asp, Walt Berggren Lay Instructors
- Howard Farley, DOH/EMS
- Dr. Tom Fell, Anesthesiologist, PSPH, MPD
Thurston County EMS Council formed

- 1973 local advisory committee formed to advise BOCC on matters of Medic One, “Thurston County EMS Advisory Committee”
- Later renamed to the Thurston County Medic One/EMS Council
12 Original Medics
Bob Allen
George Bruch
Mike Butters
Art Carter
Carl Copass
Rick Crimmins
Christopher Hall
John Murphy
Ken Palmer
Bill Pierpoint
Terry Poole
Don Warner

Dr. Brown
Barbara Soule, RN

Medic One Lifesavers Begin Training

By MIKE OAKLAND
Daily Olympian Staff Writer

Friday was an important day for all Thurston County residents — a day long awaited.

them then seeing to it that they are turned over to the proper medical authorities," he said.

Olympia Fire Chief Otto Jensen claimed, "We have overcome at the hospital the men will travel north where they will train with Seattle firemen and make actual emergency runs with their paramedic units."
Thurston County *Medic One* born August 6, 1974

- 12 firefighters from Lacey and Olympia
- To form Medic unit in Lacey and another in Olympia
- Tumwater and McLane to house two BLS transport units, reformed in 1976 to Medic Unit in Tumwater.
August 4, 1974

Medic One Responds
To County’s Needs

Medic One Van — All four Medic One vans are identical. The white trucks, described by as looking like an old-fashioned milk wagon, are trimmed in orange with black lettering. The vans will be equipped with all the necessary supplies needed in the treatment of sick or injured one. They will be staffed by trained paramedics and emergency medical technicians who will constant radio communications with doctors at St. Peter Hospital. In the near future the orange white vans will replace the traditional Cadillac ambulances. The older machines will still be for non-emergency transfers.

Medic One Program
Is Ready to Roll
A dream has become a System of county-wide Emergency Medical Care

Citizens (CPR, AED, 1st Aid) 9-1-1 Dispatch
Basic Life Support Nurse Line
Advanced Life Support Ambulances
Helicopters Base Station Medical
Receiving Centers
Trauma Centers
Specialty Care Centers
Emergency Physicians Emergency Nurses
Coordination/Mutual Aid
Disaster Plans/response
Personnel that Care...

- Pre Hospital EMS (50% volunteer)
  - First Responders = 20
  - EMT’s = 483
  - Paramedics = 52
  - Public Fire/EMS Agencies = 15
  - Commercial Ambulance Companies = 2

- Hospital EMS (Trauma, Cardiac, Stroke)
  - Nurses
  - Physicians
  - Technicians
Dr. Brown’s vision for *Medic One* was “*Medic One* services should be driven by excellence in medical care at the scene and like fire and police services, no one in Thurston County should have to worry about the cost of advanced, life saving, emergency medical care and transport before they call for help”

Dr. Rodney Brown, Medic One Founding Physician

Dr. Tom Fell, first Medical Program Director
Flexible Response Units

Paramedic Unit (Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, West County, Grand Mound, Hawks Prairie)

Fire BLS Unit (each fire service agency)

MARC (events/crowds)
Advanced Equipment
Disaster Response
Medic One’s Mission

“Provide efficient and effective pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS) throughout Thurston County (Washington State)"

Values
• We value a "Service to the Community" philosophy
• We value excellence in EMS skills, training, experience and knowledge
• We value ethics, honesty, accountability and service excellence
• We value service quality as expressed by efficiency, efficacy, response time, customer service and common sense.
• We value well-integrated emergency medical and fire services
• We value public participation and customer feedback
Medic One/EMS System

To Serve and to Save Lives

THURSTON COUNTY MEDIC ONE
SINCE 1974
38 Years of Public Service Excellence

Thank you! Thurston County Citizens