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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK **County Commission honors local EMS**

Mesa County, Colorado— When people experience a sudden illness or injury, every second counts. At these critical moments, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of the patient.

Emergency Medical Services are a vital public service that many of us don't think about until we need help. Members of Emergency Medical Service agencies are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Emergency Medical Services consist of emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, emergency physicians, emergency nurses, administrators, dispatchers and others.

The Board of Mesa County Commissioners have proclaimed May 19 to May 25, 2013, as **Emergency Medical Services Week** in Mesa County. The Commissioners presented a proclamation to members of the EMS community at their public hearing this morning.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2013, the Mesa County Emergency Medical System will present Phoenix Awards to the patients who survived cardiac arrest and the EMS first responders and law enforcement officers responsible for the care of these patients. The awards will be presented at 12:30 p.m., at an EMS luncheon event hosted by Community Hospital. The luncheon is sponsored by Community Hospital and the Mesa County EMS Council. **The media is encouraged to cover this event.**

There are approximately 300 EMS providers in Mesa County. Half of these are volunteers who work other jobs, and still get up at night to help their neighbors. These responders engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills. The citizens of Mesa County benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly-trained individuals. To become a Basic EMT takes 110 hours of training followed by 36 hours of continuing medical education every 3 years. To become an Intermediate EMT takes 400 hours of training followed by 50 hours of continuing medical education every 3 years. To become a Paramedic EMT takes 1,000 (plus) hours of training followed by 50 hours of continuing medical education every 3 years.

For more information on the luncheon and award ceremony, see the flyer attached below.

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Honoring Our EMS Providers During National EMS Week!



Please join Community Hospital and the EMS Council in thanking our EMS providers for their services.

Community Hospital



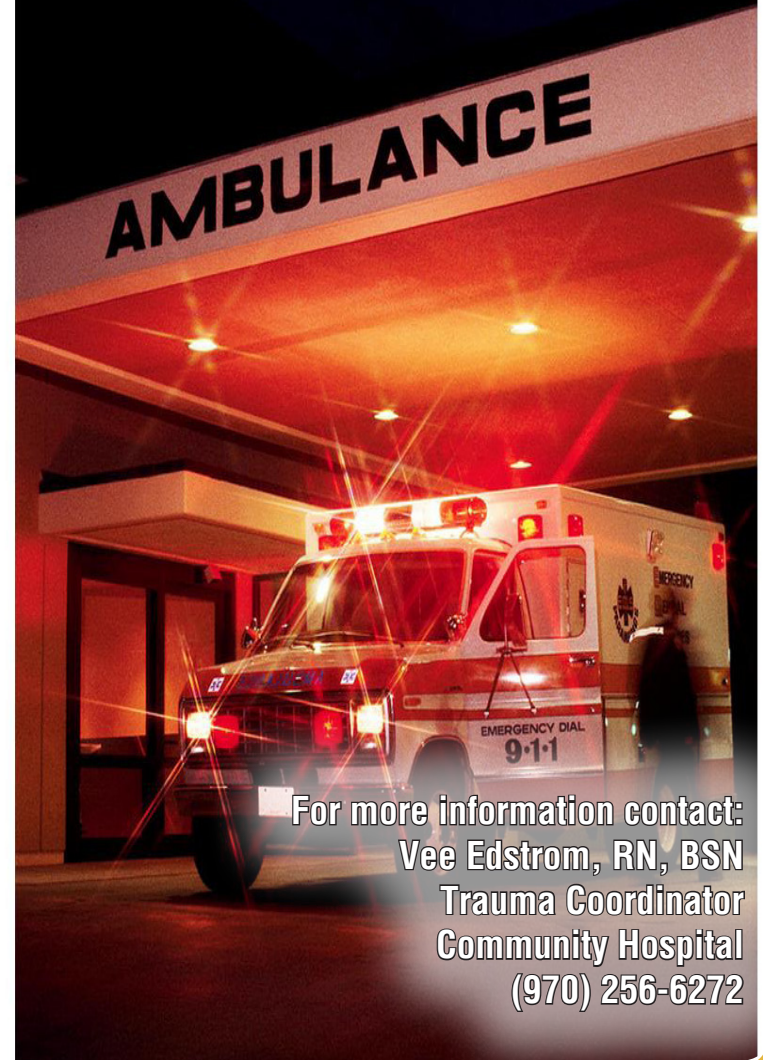
Barbecue Lunch

Wednesday, May 22
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phoenix Award Presentation 12 p.m - 1 p.m.

CMU Baseball Field

(on the corner of Orchard and Cannelle)



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