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Contact:

Scott A. Matin
Vice President
MONOC Mobile Health Services
4806 Megill Road, Neptune, NJ 07753
732-919-3045 ext. 1168
scott.matin@monoc.org
www.monoc.org

MONOC Releases New Siren Safety PSA Video for Emergency Responders

Wall, NJ – February 12, 2013 --- MONOC Mobile Health Services is proud to announce the completion of a public service announcement (PSA) video outlining the misconceptions and dangers of emergency siren use. The short video addresses the common practice of lights and siren use on most EMS calls and that many studies have shown it to be of little value in the patient's outcome.

Research has shown that EMS providers die more often than police and fire in transportation related collisions. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates there are 10,000 ambulance crashes per year. As a result of these collisions there is one fatality per week involving EMS responders, their patients, occupants of other vehicles, or innocent bystanders.

The video supports the use of lights and sirens when dealing with a true emergency, but formal procedures should be in place to identify what a true emergency is before actually responding.

As part of the video, to further illustrate the perception that sirens don't do what they are thought to do, MONOC conducted an experiment on a closed road in a setting reflecting a typical suburban neighborhood. The results showed that sirens were ineffective at competing with the masking noise generated by the road, car radios, ventilation fans, and other distracters including modern vehicle sound insulation.

After viewing the PSA, Nadine Levick, MD, of the EMS Safety Foundation said, "the siren effectiveness study demonstrates not only real world performance and effectiveness of siren use, it also demonstrates how important it is to conduct applied research on operational practice. The findings are of global significance, and from many dimensions this is a landmark study."

The PSA strongly urges operators of emergency vehicles who choose to use their lights and sirens, to remember they may not actually save any time and they will likely increase their risk of being involved in a serious collision.

For additional information about the video, contact Peter Dworsky at peter.dworsky@monoc.org or Scott Matin at scott.matin@monoc.org.

For a free copy of this PSA and a list of references please visit www.monoc.org/siren-PSA.cfm or scan the below QR code.



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MONOC Mobile Health Services is a non-profit hospital cooperative consisting of 15 acute care hospitals located throughout New Jersey. Formed in 1978 MONOC's mission is to improve health care and reduce costs. MONOC Mobile Health Services is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) and employs over 730 employees and operates a fleet of over 100 ambulances. Together this shared services consortium acts as a health care cooperative for these acute care hospitals and over 2.8 million residents that they serve living in more than 1,800 square miles of the Garden State.

Among its numerous service lines, MONOC operates MICU Paramedic Services, Helicopter interfacility and 911 services, Mobile Critical Care Services, and Basic Life Support interfacility and 911 services. Additionally, MONOC operates a Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) accredited education department which is the largest EMS education department in New Jersey providing continuing medical education to EMTs, Paramedics, Nurses, Police Officers, Fire Fighters and the general public. Coordinating all of MONOC's communications is an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) 24/7 state of the art 9-1-1 dispatch center which handled over 171,000 requests for service in 2012.