



C O U N T Y O F

Inyo

Proclamation

DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 15-21, 2022 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK AND HONORING THE INYO COUNTY EMS SYSTEM AS INYO COUNTY'S 2022 EMS PROVIDERS OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the Inyo County Emergency Medical Care Committee, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the local EMS program throughout Inyo County, created the Annual EMS Provider of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, EMS week was originally established in 1974 and observed for four years before being reinstated by the American College of Emergency Physicians in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the week of May 15-21, 2022 has been designated as National EMS Week with the theme, "Rising to the Challenge;" and

WHEREAS, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the efforts of its EMS providers throughout Inyo County and is pleased to join with other members of our community in honoring the brave men and women who volunteer their time to help keep their loved ones, friends, neighbors, and our visitors safe in times of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the EMS system includes both volunteers and emergency medical services employees throughout the County, including law enforcement dispatch systems, law enforcement officers, acute care hospitals, land and air ambulance services, and both volunteer and paid Firefighters, Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), who provide life-saving immediate care; and

WHEREAS, the network of EMS responders ensures emergency medical treatment and the safe and timely transport of injured and ill community members and area visitors to acute hospital care, where medical treatment is provided to stabilize and save lives; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders and ambulance services are represented by volunteer and paid fire and medical personnel from Bishop Fire Department, Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department, Independence Volunteer Fire Department, Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department, Olancho Volunteer Fire Department, Southeast Inyo Fire District, Cal-Fire, Symons Ambulance, and Sierra Life Flight; and

WHEREAS, acute medical services are provided by dedicated doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel at Southern Inyo Hospital District and Northern Inyo Hospital; and

WHEREAS, agencies across Inyo County experienced a 10% or more increase in call volume as a result of the pandemic, with one department, Lone Pine, experiencing over 500 calls in one year; were required to use Personal Protective Equipment including N-95 masks, gloves and gowns, regardless of the nature of the call; and every EMS provider continued to respond to calls ranging from COVID-19 and other illnesses to traffic accidents and other injury accidents, often involving neighbors and friends; and

WHEREAS, each agency has experienced unique challenges, including Independence, Olancho and Lone Pine agencies responding to accidents involving fatalities and severe injuries; Southeast Inyo's coverage of vast, isolated desert areas where one EMT volunteered hours of time to respond to two different motorcycle accidents in one day in an area out of cell service with the help of a spouse; Big Pine's high rate of response to severely ill COVID-19 patients who later died; and Bishop area providers who struggled with meeting the number of simultaneous calls, including air transport during periods of time when it was difficult to locate receiving hospitals, requiring transport to hospitals throughout California and surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Inyo County EMS providers always Rise to the Challenge to provide emergency services with professionalism, dedication, care, and compassion twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the week of May 15-21, 2022 be declared EMS Week in Inyo County and that on this 17th day of May 2022, that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors in recognition of the dedicated service the Emergency Medical System has given to the residents and visitors of Inyo County, is proud to join with the Emergency Medical Care Committee in honoring the EMS system as Inyo County's 2022 EMS Providers of the Year and extends its congratulations, heartfelt appreciation and thanks to each individual and agency, for their dedication and personal commitment to the citizens of Inyo County and commends them on being a shining example of what it means to be service providers.



Chairperson Totheroh

