

Shelby County EMS History

EMS in Shelby County was started by Tommy Sampson in 1970; the County Fiscal Court began operating the service in 1973. Initially there was only 1 ambulance, we now have 8 units and operate four Advanced Life Support (ALS) units 24 hours a day. We respond from three stations, with the main station next to the hospital inside the Shelbyville city limits. Station Two operates out of Waddy on Peytona Beach Rd. and Station three is located in Simpsonville.



EMS responds to an average of 7,000 runs a year and provides service to roughly 42,000 people inside the limits and travelling through Shelby County.

Shelby County EMS also operates a Special Response Team (SRT) to provide medical expertise in areas beyond the limits of normal medical response. We appreciate an active first response program with all of our local fire departments and we are also a part of the multiagency Shelby Task Force.

In 2011 Shelby County was named the first Heartsafe Community in Kentucky. This honor is in recognition of work with Jewish Hospital Shelbyville, First Response agencies and the Community. Additionally in 2011, SCEMS began using the Lifenet system of sending pre-hospital EKG's to area facilities ahead of EMS arrival. With that, the service's first Electronic Patient Care Report (EPCR) program was started.

Shelby County EMS also provides Community First Aid, CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support programs by being an American Heart Association (AHA) CPR Center.

The service continues to provide support to our community through education within the school system and to the community, as well as medical coverage for many large community and sporting events.

