

Agency Purpose

Minnesota Statutes 144E.001-144E.52 designate the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) as the lead agency for emergency medical services (EMS) in the state. Its mission is to *provide leadership which optimizes the quality of emergency medical care for the people of Minnesota – in collaboration with its communities – through policy development, regulation, system design, education, and medical direction.*

The EMSRB was created in 1995 and began operations on 7/1/96. Prior to that time, EMS functions in Minnesota had been conducted by the Department of Health's EMS Section, dating to the 1960s when EMS was emerging nationally as a distinct public health component. The agency is governed by a 19-member board, comprised of 15 members appointed by the governor, one member from each the senate and house, and the commissioners of Health and Public Safety.

The EMSRB also serves as the administering agency for the Health Professionals Services Program (HPSP), a program created and shared by the health licensing boards. M.S. 214.31 to 214.37 charge HPSP with protecting the public by monitoring impaired health professionals who are unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of illness, use of alcohol or drugs, or due to any mental, physical, or psychological condition.

Core Functions

The core functions of the EMSRB stem from its purpose -- to ensure the public have access to safe and reliable pre-hospital emergency medical care. By licensing ambulance services and individual EMS personnel, and by investigating complaints against EMS providers, the EMSRB assures a minimum standard in EMS is available to the people of Minnesota. Through its grant programs, the EMSRB provides support to the ambulance services that rely on volunteers and to areas of the state where the demographics require additional resources to ensure access to ambulance response.

Operations

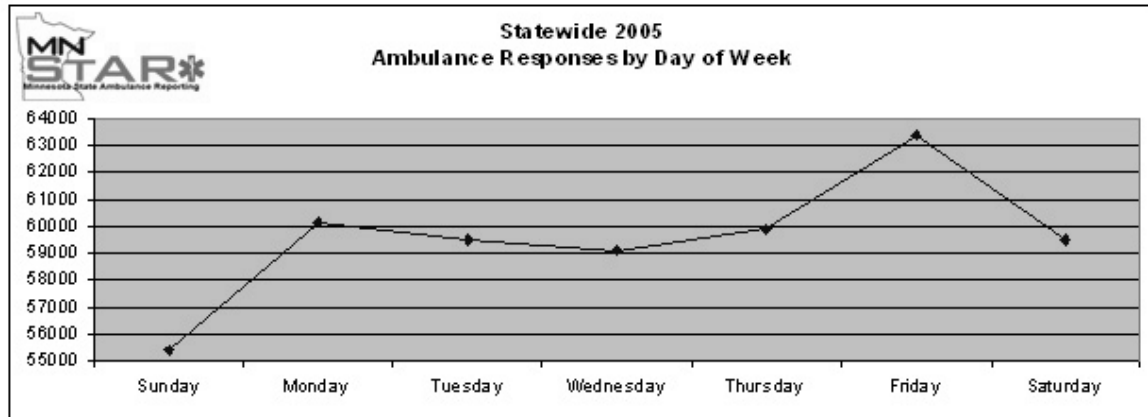
- ⇒ Licenses three levels of emergency medical technicians (EMTs, EMT-Intermediates and EMT- Paramedics) and registers first responders who have successfully met initial and renewal training/testing requirements.
- ⇒ Inspects and licenses ambulance services biannually, ensuring safe and reliable ambulance service.
- ⇒ Approves EMT, paramedic and first responder training programs biannually, ensuring quality training.
- ⇒ Investigates complaints from the public and EMS providers about ambulance services, EMS training programs and EMS personnel, taking action as necessary to protect the public from unsafe EMS practice.
- ⇒ Administers a variety of grant programs, including the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) courses that teach emergency care skills to rural doctors, nurses, and emergency room personnel; regional grant programs that support EMS in the eight regions of the state; grants to support two medical resource communication centers; and a federal grant to support and enhance training in pediatric emergency care.
- ⇒ Administers programs to promote the recruitment and retention of volunteer EMTs for nonprofit ambulance services, including an EMT training reimbursement program and the EMS Personnel Longevity Award and Incentive program for retiring volunteers.
- ⇒ Administers MNSTAR (Minnesota State Ambulance Reporting) a web-based, statewide system for collecting data from licensed ambulance services on approximately 450,000 ambulance runs annually.
- ⇒ Provides planning, coordination, and technical assistance to EMS providers in disaster and terrorism preparedness throughout Minnesota.
- ⇒ Through HPSP, performs assessment and monitoring of impaired health professionals (e.g., review drug screens, treatment provider, and work site reports).

At A Glance

- ◆ Minnesota's ambulance services (≈300) are licensed and inspected biannually.
- ◆ 29,000 emergency medical services (EMS) Personnel emergency medical technicians (EMTs), (Paramedics and First Responders) are licensed biannually.
- ◆ 100 complaints are investigated annually with action taken as needed to ensure the safety and health of the public.
- ◆ Health Professionals Services Program (HPSP) monitors more than 500 impaired health professionals for 17 health boards and state agencies to ensure the public is protected.

Key Measures

- ⇒ MNSTAR is a web-based system available to all Minnesota ambulance services for tracking and reporting ambulance responses statewide. Created and implemented by the EMSRB in 2003, this online tool enables the agency to track and report on ambulance activity in Minnesota for policy development, research, and planning. MNSTAR is also used by ambulance services to create their own reports for quality assurance, planning, and to identify training and funding needs.



- ⇒ Licenses and regulates approximately 300 ambulance services.
- ⇒ Certifies more than 29,000 EMS personnel after they have completed the required training and testing.
- ⇒ Approves approximately 140 training programs that conduct training courses for EMS personnel.
- ⇒ Designates and funds eight organizations that provide EMS support on a regional level throughout the state.
- ⇒ Registers approximately 200 first responder units, on a voluntary basis, statewide.
- ⇒ Monitors (through HPSP) over 500 health professionals to enhance public safety in health care.

Budget

The EMSRB receives its resources from a variety of sources: general fund, dedicated funds, federal grants, and fines for seat-belt violations. Because the EMS system in Minnesota is heavily dependent on a diminishing pool of volunteers, particularly in rural areas, there is no fee for certification, thereby preventing the EMSRB from becoming fee-supported. A majority of the agency's budget is dedicated to grant programs to support volunteer ambulance services. Administrative expenses, which include 15 full-time equivalent employees, accounts for 33% of the board's total expenditures. The HPSP receives its resources from the 17 participating boards and agencies. Each board pays an annual participation fee of \$1,000 and a pro rata share of program expenses based on the number of licensees the board has in the program. HPSP has 7.0 full-time equivalent employees.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	2,481	2,481	2,481	2,481	4,962
Forecast Base	2,481	2,481	2,481	2,481	4,962
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
State Government Spec Revenue					
Current Appropriation	546	596	596	596	1,192
Forecast Base	546	596	596	596	1,192
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					4.4%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	2,339	2,736	2,481	2,481	4,962
State Government Spec Revenue	516	626	596	596	1,192
Open Appropriations					
General	896	934	900	900	1,800
State Government Spec Revenue	6	6	12	12	24
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	1,417	1,557	37	37	74
Federal	302	414	300	300	600
Gift	0	13	1	1	2
Total	5,476	6,286	4,327	4,327	8,654
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	1,405	1,459	1,559	1,638	3,197
Other Operating Expenses	648	1,284	847	765	1,612
Payments To Individuals	306	385	385	385	770
Local Assistance	2,621	2,676	2,542	2,545	5,087
Other Financial Transactions	496	482	375	375	750
Transfers	0	0	(1,381)	(1,381)	(2,762)
Total	5,476	6,286	4,327	4,327	8,654
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Emergency Medical Services Bd	5,476	6,286	4,327	4,327	8,654
Total	5,476	6,286	4,327	4,327	8,654
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	22.4	23.0	26.1	26.1	

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Agency Revenue Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2006	Budgeted FY2007	Current Law		Biennium 2008-09
			FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
General	84	87	87	87	174
Other Revenues:					
General	1	10	10	10	20
State Government Spec Revenue	0	10	10	10	20
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	85	107	107	107	214
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
Misc Special Revenue	83	22	22	22	44
Grants:					
Misc Special Revenue	6	0	0	0	0
Federal	302	414	300	300	600
Other Revenues:					
General	17	15	0	0	0
Misc Special Revenue	0	0	15	15	30
Gift	1	1	1	1	2
Total Dedicated Receipts	409	452	338	338	676
Agency Total Revenue	494	559	445	445	890