

## History of the District

1974 Citizens of the county vote to approve the formation of St. Charles County Ambulance District on November 5.

The initial assessed valuation was \$.11 per \$100, and those start-up funds were collected during the following 13 months.

The District began its first day of operation on December 30. Initially, three units were in operation from bases located at 1421 North Fourth Street in St. Charles, 909 East Terra Lane in O'Fallon and 910 East Pearce Street in Wentzville.

At this time, the population of St. Charles County was 118,530.

1977 The District added an additional base and ambulance on Harvestowne Industrial Drive.

Also in this year, the first District paramedics completed training, allowing advanced life support care to be rendered on a limited basis.

1978 The District relocated the Harvestowne base to 835 Friedens Road in St. Charles. The new base previously served as the County Morgue. This property currently serves as **Base 2**.

1980 The District relocated its headquarters within O'Fallon from 909 East Terra Lane to 517 Highway 175. Two ambulances continued to operate from **Base 5** on East Terra.

1981 A new base station was built at 2190 Elm Street in St. Charles. Upon completion of the new structure, the base on Fourth Street was relocated. This currently serves as the District's **Base 1**.



1982 The O'Fallon base relocated two blocks west to

803 East Terra.



Also this year, the Augusta First Response Team completed training and began operating on October 31.

1985 The District built a new base station at 4149 Old Mill Parkway in St. Peters. Once work on the structure was complete, one of the O'Fallon-based ambulances moved east to this location (currently **Base 3**).



1986 Through a cooperative effort with Lake St. Louis Fire Protection, the District began operating an additional ambulance out of the fire station located at 900 South Service Road in Lake St. Louis.

1987 The District relocated the Wentzville base from East Pearce to 204 South Linn Street.

1988 The District purchased an existing structure at 4165 Old Mill Parkway and relocated its Headquarters from O'Fallon to St. Peters.

## History of the District - continued



1989 Through a cooperative effort with Cottleville Fire Protection, the District began operating an additional ambulance from a base station located at 6306 Weldon Springs Road – near the intersection of Highway 94 and Highway 40/61.

1990 The Wentzville base was relocated to a renovated building purchased at 402 East Pearce Blvd. This currently serves as the District's **Base 6**.



Also this year, the Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA) voted the District "Missouri State EMS Service of the Year".

1991 Negotiations were completed to purchase a Cottleville fire station at 965 Sycamore Street in Harvester. The facility was remodeled, and a second ambulance was added. This facility currently serves as **Base 8**.

1992 The District was once again honored as MEMSA's "Missouri State EMS Service of the Year".

1993 The District purchased property at 4169 Old Mill Parkway in St. Peters for the purpose of constructing a new headquarters facility. Land

was also purchased for new bases to be located at 200 McMenamy Road in St. Peters and on Highway 94 South in Augusta.

Also, a four-bay garage was added to the base at 803 East Terra Lane in O'Fallon.

For the third time, St. Charles County Ambulance District was presented with the prestigious "EMS Service of the Year" award by MEMSA.

1994 The Headquarters building was completed in spring of this year, with the previous HQ building being remodeled to serve as the EMS Training Center (see photo in 1988).



Autumn brought the opening of our Mid Rivers base station on 200 McMenamy Drive. This currently serves as **Base 4**.



Also this year, the District relocated its ambulance from the Lake St. Louis Fire station and began operating two units from the base on East Terra in O'Fallon.

1996 Through a cooperative effort with SSM St. Joseph Hospital West, the District resumed

## History of the District - continued

operating an ambulance in Lake St. Louis from a SSM-owned structure at 2800 South Service Road.

1999 The Augusta First Response Team moved into **Base 20** this year. Prior to this time, members had housed the ambulance either at their homes or in the rear of Pitman Funeral Home.



2002 In August of this year, the District proposed and was granted a \$16.88 million capital improvement bond issue by the voters. The purpose of the bonds was to acquire land, construct and furnish the new ambulance stations, renovate, improve and furnish existing ambulance bases, acquire new ambulances and other vehicles, as well as acquire and install medical, communication and other equipment.

2003 In February, the District opened **Base 15** at 1120 Feise Road in Dardenne Prairie. This was the first base to be constructed with funds from the 2002 bond issue, and was designed as a prototype for all future bases.



2004 In January, the District moved its Lake St. Louis

base station (**Base 9**) from the hospital rental location to 1789 Lake St. Louis Boulevard. This became the first District base to have generator power back-up.

In July, property was purchased near Highway N and Hepperman Road for future expansion.

2005 In February, the District opened **Base 40** in Portage des Sioux to house an ambulance for use by the Orchard Farm, Portage des Sioux and West Alton First Responders. These employees provide first response coverage to the northern part of the County.



The District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2004. This award has continued to be received each year since.

2006 In November, the District moved **Base 7** from the Cottleville Fire Station to its new Weldon Spring facility at 5150 Westwood Drive. This facility was built to house up to four ambulance crews – a real change from the one-crew base on Weldon Spring Road.



## History of the District - continued

2008 In August, the District opened **Base 14** in O'Fallon at 1621 Market Center Boulevard. The base serves residents on the south end of Highway K and the surrounding areas.

Also in August, the District opened **Base 17** at 940 North Pointe Prairie Road in Wentzville.



In September, the District opened **Base 30** at 4665 Highway Z in New Melle.

2009 St. Charles County Ambulance District was honored for a fourth time by MEMSA, earning the "EMS Service of the Year" distinction.

2010 **Base 10** located at 130 Weiss Road in Cottleville began operations in May. The base is home to several of the District's non-emergency transfer trucks.

Amid a challenging economic climate, the District removed from service one of the two front-line ambulances stationed at Base 8 in unincorporated St. Charles, as well as two overnight non-emergency ambulances.

2011 St. Charles County Ambulance District brought home five different state awards from Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA). Specifically the District was recognized as the top EMS service in the State for an unprecedented fifth time.

In addition, the District received the 2011 Community Service Award for its involvement in the St. Charles community and beyond.

2012 The District published its Long Range Financial Plan (LRFP) in an effort to raise public awareness of the District's future financial position. Based on the LRFP, the District determined the need to place an issue on the April, 2013 ballot asking the voters to consider an 11 cent property tax increase.

2013 In April of this year, the District asked voters to consider Proposition E, an 11-cent property tax levy increase. The initiative was narrowly defeated by voters.

Following the defeat of Prop. E, the Ambulance District made cuts to service, including the removal of one of the two ambulances at Base 15 in O'Fallon. Later, Base 10 in Cottleville was closed, and the units housed there were reassigned to other areas of the county.

For the ninth consecutive year, the District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA). This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available on its website.

2014 In April of this year, the District asked voters to reconsider Proposition E, pointing to increased response times following cuts to service. The measure passed by a margin of 58% to 42%.

Following the passage of Prop E, the District reinstated cuts to service, immediately filling several vacant positions and restoring the second ambulance at Station 15. Later in the year, the Cottleville station was reopened. Other future projects made possible by Prop E are detailed in the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan on the website.

This year, the District received its tenth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, and its fourth consecutive Community Service Award from the MO Emergency Medical Service Association.

2015 The District experienced substantial growth in requests for service and patient transports in 2015, making it our busiest year to date. In April of this year, Zoll X-Series cardiac monitor/ defibrillators were deployed on all ALS units. The timing of this project coincided perfectly with a major revision to cardiac arrest protocols. The changes resulted in increased survival rates. Also of note, the District's credit rating was upgraded from Aa1 to Aaa by Moody's; we are one of only a few like governmental agencies in the state to attain this rating. The District also received its eleventh consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

2016 The trend of call volume growth continued in 2016, albeit less sharply than in 2015. From an infrastructure perspective, the year was a success, with the rebuild of Station 2 on Friedens Road in St. Charles and the new Station 13 on Hopewell Road in Wentzville coming online just before the end of the year. The District deployed Stryker Power Load systems on all advanced life support units, and purchased its first Transit ambulance for the Transfer Division. The District had much to celebrate at the annual MEMSA Conference, where it received its sixth 'EMS Service of the Year' Award. The Government Finance Officers Assn. of the US and Canada presented SCCAD with their Certificate of Excellence for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Review. This marks the 12th time in as many years that the District has received the honor.