



State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

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Burke County receives Model Emergency Medical Services recognition

RALEIGH – Burke County is among the first in North Carolina to be recognized as an Emergency Medical Services Model. The county received the certification at a Nov. 12 meeting of the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council in Raleigh.

Compliance with requirements to receive this recognition is voluntary for counties statewide. Drexdal Pratt, chief of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, presented the certificate of recognition to Randy McKinney, Burke County EMS director, and EMS training officer Kenneth Anthony.

Pratt noted that Burke County already met many of the requirements. He will present the certificate to the Burke County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday.

“One thing that stands out about Burke County is the fact that this system implemented very little in the way of new initiatives to achieve model system status – the overwhelming majority of the criteria were already in place,” Pratt said. “This speaks highly of the organization and commitment to excellence that has always been a part of this EMS system.”

Pratt added that most of the leaders in Burke County are natives to that area and have an intense vested interest in making that system the best it can be. This familiarity also makes for unusually harmonious working relationships among all the agencies that are vital to a top-notch EMS system

North Carolina EMS rules implemented in January 2002 require all counties to develop an EMS system application for review and approval by the Office of EMS.

State officials say the process of developing this application requires that all organizations in the system meet and discuss the needs and goals of the system and decide together how to best address those needs and goals at the local level. The rules allow that some systems will choose to move beyond the minimal requirements and those systems that voluntarily choose to meet these additional standards are recognized as model systems.

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