Tufts EMS Restarts Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Due to significant demand Tufts EMS has brought back and rebranded our newsletter. *The Pulse* is your new source to receive information, be in the loop, and stay connected with TEMS. It has been way too long since the last TEMS newsletter but we hope you can breathe easy knowing TEMS is still in good hands.

TEMS is off to another amazing year. With tons of new members, our ranks have swelled to 49. TEMS continues to thrive as a 24/7 Class V ambulance.

TEMS passed our State Inspection with flying colors. Last academic year TEMS responded to over 450 medical emergencies! We stood by at the classics; like Spring Fling, Fall Gala (formerly known as Fall Ball) and Winter Ball (formerly known as Winter Bash). We also had the privilege of standing by at Justice Scalia’s speech, Cage Rage, and, of course, Quidditch tournaments.

TEMS has made numerous advancements too. We now have a glucometer, pulse oximetry and as of last week now carry nasal naloxone. We are working closely with the Commonwealth in adopting to the new National Standards. In addition, we have numerous trainings that are both educational and fun, like Introduction to Tactical EMS.

In short, just because you graduated and stopped riding for TEMS, that does not mean you stopped being a member of the TEMS family. We would love to hear from you, update you, talk about lights and sirens with you, or just hear stories of your time on TEMS because they never get old.

Email us at tems@tufts.edu! Also, join our LinkedIn alumni group by searching Tufts EMS.

Keep in Touch,
Ayal Pierce
Tufts EMS Executive Director
TEMS Around Campus

This spring has been a very busy period for TEMS from a community relation’s standpoint. So far, TEMS has been working with various community-oriented organizations to put on events for Tufts and the surrounding community. TEMS participated in the annual, Read by the River, sponsored by Tufts Hillel. TEMS members had the opportunity to interact with children using coloring books and training supplies. In addition, TEMS had another chance to get involved with the community at this years’ Kids’ Day. In conjunction with TUPD, TEMS set up a booth and entertained the participants. Recently, Spring Mentee Night was held. During which, the TEMS community was brought together to enjoy a night full of fun and learning.

To cap it off, the TEMS Banquet is coming up at the end of the month. The banquet will highlight our senior class as well as a whole host of other people that make Tufts a safer and healthier place.

Stay tuned for details,
Noa Yee
Director of Community Relations

A Dispatch from the Tufts President

by President Anthony Monaco

This spring marks the 28th anniversary of TEMS operations. Over that period, TEMS has compiled an impressive record of service to the Tufts community. It has helped strengthen the health, wellbeing, and safety of the university’s students, faculty, and staff while providing invaluable lessons in leadership to participants. For some students, it has proven to be the path to professional accomplishment, laying the groundwork for rewarding careers in the important field of emergency medicine.

The high quality of TEMS’ work was recently reaffirmed when the Massachusetts Department of Public Heath renewed its license to provide ambulance service for another two years. We regard active citizenship and community service as hallmarks of a Tufts education. It has hard to imagine a better example of those Tufts traditions than the services organized and provided by TEMS’ student members.
A Note from the Medical Director... by Stacey Sperling

TEMS was founded by students as a student run activity in 1985. Since then it has grown every year and is now a much called for and necessary service on the Tufts’ campus. TEMS is still run by dedicated and energetic students who donate many hours making sure that the Tufts’ community has quick, well-trained and knowledgeable emergency providers. They not only are the first responders to emergency calls on campus but they work at sporting and campus wide events. The students run the executive board, which oversees emergency medical service policies and protocols, training, education and quality improvement. They have direct and easy access to me, their Medical Director. I am an Emergency Physician and Internist. I came to the student health services 10 years ago after spending many years working in the Emergency Departments of Boston City Hospital and St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center. Since coming to Tufts, I have organized monthly Medical Director meetings with TEMS where we discuss cases, problems and the run sheets of interesting calls. These meetings also include academic lectures about specific topics in emergency medicine. We now have our own EMT class which feeds into the TEMS system. TEMS members are the teaching assistants for the class and help run the practical sessions. Recently we had a cardiac arrest on campus during which TEMS were the first responders and providers of CPR. They have decided that Tufts should be a “heart healthy” campus and they are willing to teach CPR campus wide. Our goal is to eventually have our own ambulance so that we can do our own transports and not be entirely reliant on private ambulance services in the area.

TEMS members are willing to give up sleep on the bad nights when there are a lot calls, forgo parties when they have a shift and leave class during the day when they are needed. TEMS student give up their weekends to be on call on campus as well as to staff medical tents at citywide events. They were present at the Boston marathon bombing one year ago and 21 of our members returned this year to do emergency care again. Personally, I have never worked with such a dedicated, energetic, knowledgeable and thoroughly enjoyable group of students. To me, these students are the best that Tufts has to offer!

NCEMSF Conference

This year was the 21st Anniversary Conference of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF) and it was held in Boston. Due to the close location TEMS was able to take 25 members, instead of just the Executive Board. TEMS was part of the 103 colleges/universities and 1,118 delegates to attend. This two and a half day conference focused on pre-hospital care, disaster management and emergency situations through lectures, panels, hands-on activities, and discussions. Some of the most noteworthy aspects included the keynote address on lessons learned from the Boston Bombing by Alasdair Conn, MD the Chief Emeritus of Emergency Medicine at MGH. TEMS alumnus David Schoenfeld gave an intriguing lecture on Selective Spinal Immobilization. Other noteworthy seminars included North American Bites and Stings, A Decade of War: What Iraq and Afghanistan has given to Civilian Medicine, and 50 Shades of 911: Management of Kink Related Emergencies. Overall, NCEMSF was a great educational opportunity and chance to meet and mingle with collegiate EMT’s from across the country.
With over 450 calls last year alone, TEMS has seen calls for a variety of complaints. This graph shows the types of calls that TEMS has responded to.