



News Release

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Tri-State Ambulance unveils newest ambulance

The call comes in. The lights and siren are activated. The Tri-State Ambulance crew is ready to roll. And now they will be answering those emergency calls in a brand new state-of-the-art ambulance.

The new ambulance was selected and customized with input from the crew...the emergency medical personnel on the front lines who use the ambulance. "Our new ambulance has a new Ford F-series chassis which offers more reliability. In addition it features an air ride system that delivers a more comfortable and stable ride," reports Jay Clark, NREMT-P, operations supervisor, Tri-State Ambulance. "It's a heavier duty truck to stand up to the wear and tear of a busy ambulance service."

The new vehicle offers more legroom and comfort for those sitting up front. This added comfort is beneficial to the Tri-State crews who are spending more time in the ambulance, posted in the field, as part of Tri-State's new System Status Management (SSM) program.

"SSM allows us to improve healthcare systems and move resources around to better serve patients," Clark explains. "Using trending information, we can predict where we need to post our units throughout the service area to further cut response times."

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Paramedic Jason Santos, NREMT-P, agrees, “When we are sitting in the unit for long periods of time, we really appreciate the comfort and added legroom. The wireless connection in the ambulance is also very convenient, allowing us to work on our reports, and giving us faster, reliable access to patient information when we go on a call.”

The new ambulance can also accommodate bariatric patients. The cot is rated to carry up to 1,600 pounds safely. The ambulance is also equipped with a special ramp and winch system to get the occupied cot into the ambulance without the risk of injury to the patient or emergency personnel. Once inside, the cot can be secured for safe transport.

According to Clark, the vehicle was customized for their needs including placement of equipment within the vehicle and safely securing the specific equipment they carry. “As part of the crew who will use the ambulance, I had a say in how the unit was laid out, size of compartments, location of equipment, lighting and other features” Santos adds.

New customized graphics on the outside of the ambulance are all reflective—well beyond the requirements for reflective materials—making the ambulance more visible and thus safer, especially at night and on often poorly lit rural road. “The new graphics look really sharp,” says Santos.

Tri-State Ambulance will host an open house on Friday, Oct. 26, from 10 to noon at the Holmen station on 3930 Circle Drive, just off of OT. Everyone is invited to come and see the new ambulance, especially emergency personnel who work with Tri-State Ambulance such as police officers, fire department personnel and First Responders.

Tri-State Ambulance is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gundersen Lutheran.

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