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Slippery Sidewalks Keep Tri-State Ambulance Busy

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Slippery sidewalks are keeping Tri-State Ambulance busy.

Of all the weather related calls they received Wednesday, paramedics say people falling down tops the list.

The radio goes off at Tri-State Ambulance, "20 year old Female," says a dispatcher.

It's Just one call of many for Tri-State Ambulance on Wednesday. Lead Paramedic Rich Schuh says Wednesday calls were up 45% compared to a normal day.

"You name it, anything weather related we've seen it, we've seen falls, broken bones, ankles, arm fractures, people striking their head," said Schuh.

Add to that list, strained backs and even cardiac arrest while shoveling. Schuh said "We knew this was going to happen, and we prepared."

They prepared by beefing up staff and putting more ambulances on the road.

"On a typical day we usually have six to eight ambulances on, we kind of stagger them out depending on our busy times, but today we had eleven ambulances at one time and were actually using all those ambulances," said Schuh.

And even though the snow let up Wednesday night, the calls to Tri-State Ambulance continue to come in.

"Four transporting, non emergency, one rider on board," crackled the radio.

Paramedics say it should start getting back to normal as the winter storm continues to back off, but they're still preparing for a busy Thursday .

On a side note, if you do live along a sidewalk you have 24 hours to clear that walkway before you can be fined.

But it's important to take it easy while shoveling. Paramedics remind people to bend at their knees, not the back, when shoveling and to take breaks.



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