

THE HANDOFF

EMS NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Thank you!

On behalf of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your extra efforts and dedication during a challenging winter season of illness. Your commitment to ensuring the highest quality patient care in our community has not gone unnoticed.

We recognize the added pressures the last few months have brought, and we are incredibly grateful for your tireless efforts in managing the high volume of calls, caring for some very sick patients, and collaborating seamlessly with our hospital staff. Your professionalism, skill, and compassion make a profound difference, and we truly appreciate the vital role you play in our healthcare system.

Stay Safe,

Chris Vogelpohl, Manager of EMS Community Outreach

Workplace Safety

We have all seen the stories of the increase in workplace violence directed at healthcare workers. Most recently there have been attacks on hospital staff in Florida and Pennsylvania. We must work as a team to keep ourselves safe. One way that we can work towards a safer workplace is for EMS to do a verbal screening for weapons prior to transporting a patient. Make it a daily part of your practice to screen your patients. Ask them, "Do you have any type of weapons on you such as guns, or knives?" If they respond in the affirmative, politely ask them to leave these items at home, and reinforce to them that they will not be allowed to keep possession of any type of weapon once they arrive at the ED. Taking this simple step will help to keep your crews safer in the back of the squad, as well as our ED team.

Pulsara

Early notification saves hearts and brains

Edgewood Labor and Delivery will soon be live on Pulsara for notifications. More to come soon!

Quarterly Statistics for Pulsara

STEMI Alerts: 81 (Edgewood) Jan-March

Stroke Alerts: 103 (All Facilities) Jan-March

Strangulation Cases

Jill Brummett, RN Nurse Manager Forensics

Strangulation is a serious crime that has historically been minimized, but recent legislative changes highlight its significance, especially in cases of domestic violence, elder abuse, and child abuse. In July 2019, Kentucky became the 48th state to recognize strangulation as a felony. Prior to this, it could only be charged as a misdemeanor assault, often only with visible injuries.

For Emergency Medical Services EMS, it's crucial to approach cases of strangulation with awareness and caution. Remember these key principles when responding to these calls:

- 1. Be trauma-informed and empathetic:** Strangulation is a terrifying and traumatic experience for victims, and they may be in shock or hesitant to speak about it.
- 2. Document everything:** Injuries from strangulation can be internal, and it's essential to document both visible and potential internal injuries, even if there are no external signs. This can include hoarseness, difficulty breathing, or red spots on the skin.
- 3. Encourage medical evaluation:** Even if there are no obvious injuries, internal trauma such as vascular dissections may occur, and only advanced imaging like CTA can detect them.
- 4. Forensic exams:** If the victim is brought to the St. Elizabeth ED, a forensic exam may be performed, potentially including touch DNA collection from the neck.

Your attention to detail and understanding of these principles can make a significant difference to the outcome of these cases.

Below is a link to a webinar which provides excellent training on EMS responses to strangulation.

<https://www.familyjusticecenter.org/resources/ems-and-paramedic-response-to-strangulation-webinar/>

CARES Registry/Database

St Elizabeth Healthcare is now participating in the CARES Registry. CARES is used in state and national databases and helps to “Measure outcomes, improve care, and saves lives”. Starting in January 2025 we began entering patient outcomes into the registry. As partners in healthcare, we encourage all EMS agencies to register and participate in CARES. This can be accomplished through a simple add on to your reporting software. We view the registry as an excellent opportunity to collect data on the quality and effectiveness of our resuscitation efforts in the field and in the hospital. Mark Trivette with KBEMS is the Resource Management Analyst and his contact information is below.

Mark.trivette@ky.gov 502-764-1506 (office)

Current CARES Participants: [Covington](#), [Independence](#) and [Walton Fire Departments](#).

Educational Opportunities

Jill Brummett: St E Forensics Department for in-person education related to anything forensic.
Call her directly to schedule: 859-212-4254

Watch email for monthly EMS online training



St. Elizabeth Nursing and EMS Conference
October 9th, 2025 (One day only)

Staying Connected

We do our best to keep our EMS partners engaged and informed. We utilize group email lists and are working to update the EMS page on the St. Elizabeth website. We also realize that there are some gaps in communication. If you are not currently receiving emails from us and would like to, including monthly continuing education, please send us an email to the address below requesting to be added to our distribution list.

Ems.coordinator@Stelizabeth.com

St. Elizabeth and Gateway Community College

St. Elizabeth is proud to continue and expand our partnership with Gateway. Recently, it was announced that St. Elizabeth will partner with Gateway and Florence Fire Department to expand to a third paramedic cohort! This partnership allows Gateway to continue to produce quality paramedics who will serve our region for years to come. Pictured below are several students who had the opportunity to participate in OB, and neonate simulation training in February at SETEC.



Recognition

St Elizabeth EMS Outreach Proudly Recognizes:

Crews of the Quarter: Burlington FD:(Daly, Chamberlin) Dry Ridge FD: (Seither, Brown) Ft. Thomas FD (Fite, Fromeyer, Behrle)

Successful Resuscitation and STEMI Save: Airport Fire Department (January)

DTN Recognitions: Florence FD (Nov 2024), Union Fire District (Dec 2024), Campbell Fire Rescue (Jan 2025)

Contact Information

Missy Miles AVP Emergency Services
missy.miles@stelizabeth.com

Chris Vogelpohl Manager EMS Community Outreach
christopher.vogelpohl@stelizabeth.com

Josh Cox EMS Outreach Coordinator
joshua.cox@stelizabeth.com

Tony Scheben EMS Outreach Coordinator
tony.scheben@stelizabeth.com