

PRESS RELEASE

5/18/2007

Contact: Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515 or knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

EMS Week Food Drive May 24

Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is sponsoring a food drive on Thursday, May 24, 2007. The EMS Week Food Drive will be held in the Publix parking lot at Paradise Point Shopping Center from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Look for the ambulance! EMS personnel hope to fill the ambulance with the non-perishable food items collected. All the food collected will be donated to the Okaloosa-Walton United Way for local food banks.

EMS Week is May 20-26, and the theme for this year's national celebration is "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service," recognizing and honoring the high-level emergency care given by EMS providers as well as those that treat children and saves lives overall. "We wanted to provide an 'extraordinary service,' and let the public meet some 'extraordinary people,' so we decided to hold the First Annual EMS Food Drive during EMS Week," stated Al Herndon, EMS division chief. "If it is successful, we hope to have another one next year to increase food bank supplies at a different time of year than the usual Christmas holiday food drives," he added.

Emergency medical service teams consist of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others. The EMS Food Drive is an opportunity to show appreciation for the dedication of emergency personnel all year, and provide food for local food banks. For more information, contact 850-651-7150.

(info box on following page)

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1ST ANNUAL EMS WEEK FOOD DRIVE

MAY 24, 10 AM-2PM

- **Look for the Okaloosa County EMS Ambulance at Publix in the Paradise Point Shopping Center at Brooks Bridge**
- **Drop off your *NON-PERISHABLE* food items.**
- **Goal is to *FILL* the Ambulance with *FOOD*!**
- **All food will be donated to the Okaloosa-Walton United Way for Local Food Banks.**
- **This is an opportunity to say “*Thanks*” to EMS providers who protect the health, safety & welfare of our community!**

NATIONAL EMS WEEK MAY 20-26, 2007 – “Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service”