

Okaloosa County News Release

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Okaloosa County Public Safety Wants Residents to Know: “You’re in Good Hands.”

On Tuesday, January 6, the Florida Bureau of EMS conducted an unannounced inspection of Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS, a division of Public Safety, received an exemplary inspection with zero deficits. “The citizens and visitors of Okaloosa County can be proud of EMS, it is well-run,” stated Compliance Officer and Paramedic Shelly Lewis, Florida Bureau of EMS. The inspector stated that she had only encountered one other unannounced inspection in the entire state where the results were similar.

This all-day inspection includes all administrative records, medication and drug records, permits, licenses, medical director’s profiles, employee training records and files, as well as inspection of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances. The ALS non-transport fire engines in Destin that operate under Okaloosa County ALS license through the ALS Fire Agreement were also inspected. Florida has over 245 licensed EMS providers.

“Credit goes to EMT personnel and the Paramedics who represented us in the inspection, as well as the officers who were interviewed specifically in there areas of responsibility,” stated Public Safety Director Dino Villani. EMS Division Chief Al Herndon had this to say: “I just want the public to know how serious we take our responsibility and reaffirm that their health safety and welfare are in good hands.”

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