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NEWS RELEASE

May 16, 2018 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dubuque Fire Department Marks National EMS Week

DUBUQUE, Iowa – National EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week is May 20-26 this year. The campaign's theme is "Stronger Together." The Dubuque Fire Department will celebrate EMS Week with several activities and invites the public to attend.

National Emergency Medical Services Week, created by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

On Saturday, May 19, the public is invited to attend the free 21st Annual "Safety Rules" Bike Rodeo at the Dubuque County Emergency Responder Training Facility, 14928 Public Safety Way, from 9 a.m. - noon. Children are encouraged to bring their bicycles and helmets, and those who complete the safety course will be eligible to win prizes. Firefighters and paramedics will be on hand to answer questions and a fire truck and ambulance will be on display.

On Sunday, May 20, the fire department will participate in the Children's Spring Party at the Dubuque Arboretum, 3800 Arboretum Drive, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will be many activities for children, including displays/tours of a City of Dubuque fire truck and ambulance.

On Thursday, May 24, the fire department will provide hands-only CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) training for the public from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Walmart (4200 Dodge St.), and from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at Target (3500 Dodge St.). The potentially life-saving training only takes about five minutes.

The Dubuque Fire Department has proudly provided emergency and non-emergency ambulance service in the Dubuque community since 1914. In the 1970s, members began advanced medical training so they could expand their scope of practice providing better coverage to their community. Today, the membership of the department is comprised of 89 highly trained members.

Dubuque Fire Department ambulances are staffed with two paramedics and all fire department staff members are dual-trained as EMTs and firefighters, experienced to handle any situation. In 2013, the department expanded their services with Advanced Life Support Engine companies. This allows the department additional capabilities to respond to any location within the community, initiating expedient advanced medical care. The department maintains six stations throughout the community to provide prompt paramedic response.

EMS Week will also feature a different theme for each day of the week. To see these daily themes and get useful tips, as well as learn more about Dubuque Fire and its ambulance services, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/fire or follow Dubuque Fire Department on Facebook @DubuqueFireDepartment. For more information on National EMS Week, visit www.emsstrong.org.

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