

EMS RESPONSE AT THE CLAY COUNTY FAIR

“THE WORLD’S GREATEST COUNTY FAIR”

The Clay County Fair in Spencer Iowa, known as the World’s Greatest County Fair is held for nine days in the month of September. A perfect destination for the entire family, the Clay County Fair features world-class Grandstand entertainment, 7 stages of free entertainment, GoldStar Amusements on the Midway, over 525 commercial exhibits, and thousands of competitive displays including livestock, culinary, creative activities and agriculture.

The Clay County EMS Association’s purpose is to provide Clay County Fair patrons with professionally qualified Emergency Medical Services in the case of an unexpected medical or traumatic emergency during their visit to the Clay County Fair. Each year the Clay County EMS Advisory Council reviews previous fair happenings and tries to improve for next year.

In 2013, the EMS providers responded to 67 calls with 12 of them requiring an ambulance. The total attendance at the fair was approximately 334,575 people for the nine day event. Clay County expenses were \$2,360.64. For the fourth year in a row no violations were cited during the State Inspection. We had 27 providers who volunteered 1,380 hours of their time. This does not include the time of the EMS Coordinator. Staffing the EMS Response Trailer would be impossible without our volunteer friends from outside Clay County’s geographic boundaries. Some providers travel as far as 90 miles to volunteer their time at this annual event. We have several EMS Providers who volunteer each day from 7:30 a.m to 11:00 p.m. each day of the fair and have been doing this for over 20 years.

The Clay County EMS Response Trailer was purchased by the Clay County Board of Supervisors to respond in the event of a disaster and is used each year for the Clay County Fair. In addition, four golf cart ambulances are used for response on the fair grounds. Two are owned by Clay County EMS Association and two are owned by the Dickinson County EMS Association.

Each year the Clay County EMS Advisory Council appoints individuals to serve as leadership during the 9 days of the fair. These individuals are posted in the command center and are responsible for appointing teams of responders, dispatching, orientation, daily paperwork and audit of run reports. The EMS providers present themselves in a professional manner and dress appropriately in medic t-shirts. Calls are performed as a team approach. First team on scene provides patient care. The Clay County EMS Coordinator is responsible for purchasing necessary equipment, scheduling, resolving conflicts and has decision making authority.

There is definitely no argument that the EMS Response at the Clay County Fair is one of the many things that make it the World’s Greatest County Fair.

Tammy R. McKeever, Coordinator
Clay County EMS Association