

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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May 18, 2020

**NATIONAL EMS WEEK, MAY 17 – 23, 2020**

As the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), I am honored to recognize and celebrate California's emergency medical services practitioners and the important work they do providing day-to-day lifesaving services on the front lines of patient care.

Fifty years ago, Governor Ronald Reagan signed into law the Wedworth-Townsend Act, unifying emergency medical services across the great state of California. That historic event set in motion the development and implementation of the collaborative systems of emergency medical care we rely on to this day.

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel play an invaluable role in our communities, devoting their time, energy, and expertise to saving lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In recent years, EMS personnel and providers have adapted to meet the needs for specialized care and improve patient outcomes for those who may otherwise have limited access to medical care.

It is quite possible that the lifesaving contributions of these individuals – EMTs, paramedics, first responders, nurses, physicians, administrators – have never been more prominent in the eyes of Californians than during recent events. As we collectively adapt to face the many new challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, EMS personnel and providers continue to work tirelessly, putting their own health at risk to ensure we as Californians can get through this moment. EMS personnel have stepped up to fill the health care needs in many required environments during these events and this has clearly been life-saving.

During National EMS Week, May 17-23, 2020, let us celebrate the true everyday heroes we call upon to protect and preserve our health, safety, and wellbeing.

**AND TO OUR CALIFORNIA EMS PROVIDERS ---- THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Duncan".

Dave Duncan MD  
Director