

# AirCurrents



## Freestanding Emergency Department Now Open in Miamisburg

By Andrea Stayner, BSN, RN, nurse manager, Miami Valley Hospital Austin Boulevard Emergency Center

Premier Health is taking care to a higher level by expanding access to emergency services for Miamisburg and surrounding communities. Miami Valley Hospital Austin Boulevard Emergency Center offers 24-hour, full-service care with easy access from Interstate 75. This new emergency center accepts all patients with minor to severe injuries.

**Services include:** 12 emergency beds (including two trauma bays) staffed by board-certified emergency medicine physicians from Miami Valley Hospital; access to Premier Health’s TeleStroke Network for timely evaluation and stroke treatment; lab and imaging services, including 24/7 CT and X-ray; transport by CareFlight Air and Mobile Services if hospitalization is needed; a large community room with six flat-screen monitors and surround-sound speakers, available for reservations free of charge; automatic backboard washer available for EMS equipment; and dedicated EMS lockers, along with an EMS room.

This new emergency center features advanced technology for patient care, including adjustable lighting and electronic communication boards in patient rooms, color changing wall panels for distraction and relaxation, and many other advancements.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Nurse Manager Andrea Stayner, BSN, RN, at **(937) 388-7959** or **amstayner@premierhealth.com**.



### In This Issue

Celebrating Life  
Doing the Basics –  
Exquisitely Well

Trauma Survivor  
Banquet

“How Low Can  
You Go?”

31st Annual  
CareFlight Conference

Upcoming Outreach  
Events

A Day in the Life of a  
CareFlight Mechanic

## Celebrating Life

Eric Haas strolled into the lobby at the Miami Valley Hospital Jamestown Emergency Center on Thursday, Nov. 8 – his 38th wedding anniversary – grinning from ear to ear.

“Hugs for everybody!” he cheered as he embraced anyone he could wrap his arms around.

“You guys just have no idea how grateful I am to all of you,” he announced, his eyes welling up with tears.

“And I feel so, so amazing!” he proclaimed, adding that he has been exercising, eating healthfully, and had lost more than 20 pounds since everyone there last saw him.

Silvercreek Township and New Jasper Township EMS crews responded to Eric’s lake house near Jamestown on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, after his wife, Jan, called 911 in a panic when he became unresponsive.

They worked together to restart Eric’s heart and transported him to Jamestown Emergency Center. There, they joined forces with staff to prepare Eric for transport to Miami Valley Hospital via CareFlight Air and Mobile Services. Later that week, Eric underwent open-heart surgery at Miami Valley Hospital to repair multiple blockages.

A reunion with Eric’s caregivers was set into motion earlier this year.

While attending a Silvercreek Township council meeting, Eric, who serves as mayor of Fort Thomas, Kentucky just outside of Cincinnati, was surprised to be greeted with, “I know you,” after exchanging casual smiles with Silvercreek Fire Chief Steve Payton. The fire chief happened to be part of the crew who treated Eric after he went into cardiac arrest.

When Eric returned home to his wife and excitedly said “Guess who I met!” while showing off a photo of him with the fire chief, the two knew that they needed to reunite with everyone else who saved his life.

Mandy Via, outreach manager for CareFlight, helped coordinate a reunion of several caregivers, including the dispatcher who fielded Jan’s 911 call. To have such a well-attended reunion “just truly echoes why we do what we do,” she said.

Sara Bauersfeld, who helped care for Eric as a nurse at Jamestown Emergency Center, also expressed appreciation for everyone gathered.

“One of the biggest things about being out in Jamestown that people don’t always see is how much community it takes,” she said. “We’ve got



good quality care, and we've got teamwork, and it fulfills me in my role as nurse manager now to know that we're reaching people."



Jan Haas hugs the 911 operator who took her call when her husband, Eric, went into cardiac arrest in October 2018.

Eric's wife described the reunion, held almost exactly 13 months after the incident, as closure.

"Most of the time you don't know if the patient made it, and we just wanted to share with you that because of you all, every single one of you, he made it," she told the group.

Just as he hugged everyone initially, Eric went around the room asking all present to tell him about their roles that day.

"I've always been grateful to people who do what you do, no question about it. But now I just have a totally different perspective on how important it is and how much you affect people's lives, and I'm just so grateful that you were willing to show up today so I can say thank you," he said.

"What a great gift – this is the best anniversary gift ever."

## Doing the Basics – Exquisitely Well

By Andrew C. Hawk, MD, medical director, CareFlight Air and Mobile Services

Dr. Gareth Davies is the medical director for London's Air Ambulance in the United Kingdom. He was a keynote speaker at the 2018 Air Medical Transport Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. I had the opportunity to hear him speak on multiple occasions during this international gathering of critical care transport professionals. His message of "doing the basics exquisitely well" is the foundation of excellent patient care, no matter the level of EMS provider.

London's Air Ambulance provides pre-hospital emergency service to a population of 10 million people, within a congested 25-mile radius. Their air medical service is highly advanced and focused on caring for urban trauma patients. In their world, lengthy transport times to a trauma center – due to traffic and other delays – are remedied by helicopter.

What Dr. Davies had to say was very interesting, but the pre-hospital demographics of London are dissimilar to the demographics of trauma care and transport in Ohio. Their response population base

is almost as large as the total population of Ohio, within just a fraction of the area. His message of "performing the common uncommonly well," however, crosses all demographics.

Dr. Davies knows that basic trauma care is the best foundation. His third quote on the subject – "focusing on the basics with absolute attention to detail" – cemented his message, and I agree: excellent trauma care begins with the basics. Make sure you do it well.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments.



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# Sixth Annual Trauma Survivor Banquet

By Amanda Pulfer, MSN, RN, Miami Valley Hospital trauma outreach coordinator

Miami Valley Hospital's Trauma program hosted its sixth annual Trauma Survivor Banquet on October 2. The Trauma Survivor Banquet honors patients who made miraculous recoveries despite suffering traumatic, life-threatening injuries. As an occasion designed to reunite trauma survivors with their prehospital and inpatient caregivers, the Trauma Survivor Banquet is truly a night of celebration for survivors, their families, and their care teams!

In preparation for the Trauma Survivor Banquet, survivors and their care team members participate in video-recorded interviews. Then, on the evening of the banquet, patient story videos with details of each survivor's traumatic event and journey to recovery are shown. This inspirational assembly gives all participants an opportunity to witness the amazing survival stories of those being honored!

Four distinguished trauma survivors were recognized this year:



**Kelley Boucher**  
Survived a crossbow injury



**Kenneth Coleman**  
Survived a major car crash



**Paul Rizzo**  
Survived a skydiving accident



**Jonathan Wilcox**  
Suffered a traumatic brain injury



Trauma survivor Paul Rizzo hugs Mary McCarthy, MD, FACS, trauma surgeon at Miami Valley Hospital.



You can watch their inspirational stories unfold here: [mvh.org/TraumaStories](https://mvh.org/TraumaStories)

# “How Low Can You Go?”

By Keith Shivers, program aviation manager, CareFlight Air and Mobile Services

This question is asked many times in the Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA) industry as it pertains to weather minimums that dictate when a pilot or program can accept an HAA flight. Several years ago, there were tendencies for some air ambulance providers to promote that their pilots could fly in the “worst weather” in an effort to generate more calls/transports. Unfortunately, from late 1998 to 2016, many air ambulance pilots were attempting to fly in this “worst weather.” Dr. Ira Blumen, program/medical director for the University of Chicago’s Aeromedical Network (UCAN) has for the past 17 years been one of the nation’s foremost researchers on the helicopter EMS industry. A study of his published in 2016 showed that when pilots and crews pushed weather minimums, especially at night, the combination can be lethal.

“Between 1998 and 2016, HEMS operators flew 5.2 million flight hours; 36 percent of those were at night. Forty-two percent of accidents occur on patient missions involving on-scene responses. Human factors played a role in 94 percent of all accidents, followed by weather (25 percent), mechanical (24 percent), controlled flight into terrain (21 percent), and landing zone mishaps (9 percent). Blumen noted that while weather is less of a factor in accidents now than it was 15 years ago, when weather is added to the brew, it is lethal: two-thirds of weather-related accidents end in fatalities.” (Blumen, 2016).

Thankfully, the FAA made sweeping changes in 2014 in response to the number of HAA deaths, which peaked in 2008 at 29 (see chart at right). One of the most important changes was standardizing weather minimums that dictate when pilots are allowed to accept flights under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). These minimums were already being utilized by the majority of larger air ambulance providers, including CareFlight Air and Mobile Services, but the new rule made it mandatory for all providers regardless of the size of their helicopter fleet. The only way to accept and conduct a flight in weather below these VFR minimums is for the pilot, as well as the aircraft, to be certified to operate in the National Airspace under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), under which CareFlight has been operating with our fleet of Dauphin helicopters for more than 10 years.

It concerns me when I hear some of our first responders and hospital partners stating that Program X or Program Y says their pilots can fly in worse weather than any other program. Every HAA operator is required to utilize the same weather minimums as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 135.609, and to promote anything to the contrary contradicts the safety culture of the industry – especially considering how and why the industry has come to where it is.

## Helicopter EMS Accidents per year

YEAR	TOTAL ACCIDENTS	FATAL ACCIDENTS	NUMBER OF FATALITIES
2006	13	3	5
2007	12	2	7
2008	12*	7	29
2009	9	2	6
2010	12	6	16
2011	3	1	4
2012	7	1	3
2013	9	5	12
2014	8	2	6
2015	7	5	9

\* Including a midair collision, there were 13 hull losses in 2008.

# 31st Annual CareFlight Conference

By Mandy Via, outreach manager, CareFlight Air and Mobile Services



From left: Jeff King, Melissa King, Raynne Allen, and Chris Allen, members of Gratis Fire and EMS

The annual CareFlight Air and Mobile Services conference took place October 17 at the University of Dayton Marriott, with representatives from 15 area counties in attendance. The event relocated this year to the Tradewinds space at the facility, which made for a very fitting venue, as it is built to resemble a hangar. Participants heard from Candy Skidmore, vice president of service integration for emergency and trauma services at Premier Health. Candy served as one of CareFlight's original flight nurses, so it was fitting that she spoke at this event held during our 35th year of service to the community. CareFlight would like to thank all of the attendees and looks forward to next year's event.

## Upcoming Outreach Events

By Mandy Via, outreach manager, CareFlight Air and Mobile Services



### Clark County On the Farm

March 2, 2019 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Harbage Farms  
South Charleston, Ohio

Come join us on the farm for a day of education focused on the recognition and treatment of farm-related injuries, as well as the transportation of children and adults who have been injured.

### Tri-County On the Lake

May 5, 2019 • 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Massie Township Fire Department  
Harveysburg, Ohio

Join us for our on the lake educational event focused on injuries and other mishaps that can happen while having fun on the lake. Trauma case reviews and other watercraft reviews will take place.



For any questions, or if you would like to schedule education, please contact:

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# A Day in the Life of a CareFlight Mechanic

By Paul Croushore, lead mechanic, CareFlight Air and Mobile Services

CareFlight Air and Mobile Services' fleet of Dauphin helicopters is highly recognized as the fastest EMS aircraft in the region. The CareFlight flight crews are renowned for providing highly skilled emergency and critical care services to patients in hospitals and the community. Much less publicized are the vital contributions of the CareFlight Air and Mobile Services aircraft maintenance team, which keeps our helicopters airworthy and in service. Behind-the-scenes aircraft maintenance is truly the backbone of CareFlight Air and Mobile Services' air medical transport program.

So, what does a day in the life of one of CareFlight's aircraft mechanics look like? What exactly do they do?

At the beginning of the day, at each of the three aircraft bases, a CareFlight mechanic starts by having a short meeting with the duty flight crew (one pilot and two flight nurses) to discuss any mechanical or cosmetic concerns with the aircraft that the duty crew might have noticed during their daily checks. After this meeting, the mechanic performs a thorough airworthiness check (A-Check) – a daily, point-by-point inspection of the helicopter to validate the mechanical and cosmetic integrity of the aircraft. If the A-Check does not reveal any discrepancies, then the mechanic completes his or her paperwork for the aircraft logbook. Once the A-Check and logbook are complete, the mechanic notifies the duty crew that the aircraft is ready for air ambulance operations.

Of course, the mechanic's job doesn't stop there. Throughout the day, the team of mechanics organizes scheduled aircraft inspections and maintenance. Helicopters have routine maintenance that is due by flight hour, flight cycle (takeoff and landing = one

cycle), and calendar (much like a car). The aircraft base's mechanic is required to look ahead, know what scheduled maintenance is upcoming, and ensure that the necessary parts and specialty tools are ordered and available for the projected time frame when that maintenance will be performed. They also manage their individual bases for cleanliness and orderliness and stock the base with the necessary consumable materials (i.e. oil, grease, oxygen, nitrogen, etc.).

The mechanics coordinate between all three aircraft bases to schedule maintenance when it best fits into program operations to keep all three bases in service. At times, if one of the program's helicopters is having a major inspection completed that requires all major components of the aircraft to be removed, disassembled, inspected/repaired, and reassembled to fly again, that aircraft is taken out of service and a backup aircraft placed in service in the interim.

Contrary to scheduled maintenance, unscheduled helicopter maintenance is nearly impossible to prepare for; however, it does provide the opportunity for a great mechanic to really shine. A good mechanic works hard, performs scheduled maintenance, and keeps the hangar in immaculate condition. A great mechanic sets himself apart with his ability to quickly troubleshoot unscheduled mechanical issues and coordinate with the CareFlight team to execute the logistics of repairing the aircraft and returning it to service. Sometimes this means having the duty crew switch to a backup aircraft until the repairs on the duty aircraft are complete.

*(continued on next page)*



## A Day in the Life of a CareFlight Mechanic (continued)

Experience is crucial for success – a great mechanic does not acquire advanced troubleshooting skills overnight. It typically takes years of experience managing a variety of aircraft issues before one can make complex troubleshooting almost look easy. However, it is just as important that all mechanics understand how to utilize each of the multiple aircraft maintenance manuals to ensure all maintenance troubleshooting and repairs are conducted in accordance with manufacturer and federal rules and guidelines.

As an EMS operator, CareFlight helicopters are in service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which requires a mechanic to be on-call 24/7 as well. If a helicopter experiences an unscheduled maintenance event at any time while the base mechanic is off-duty, the pilot will call the on-call mechanic to come and evaluate the concern, regardless of the location of the aircraft. This on-call responsibility is usually shared by multiple mechanics on a weekly rotating schedule.

This is by no means an all-inclusive list of the roles and responsibilities of the aircraft maintenance

team for CareFlight Air and Mobile Services, but it sheds light on the fact that a day in the life of a CareFlight mechanic is not spent just turning wrenches. The job involves an extensive amount of research, problem solving, logistics planning, clear communication, and time-sensitivity to keep our aircraft airworthy and in service for the hospitals and communities we serve, which is what is so rewarding to the CareFlight aircraft maintenance team.

So, the next time you see one of our CareFlight helicopters speeding overhead, I hope you have a better understanding of those unsung heroes and the level of skill and expertise that they provide behind the scenes every day to keep those flight crews and aircraft in the air and available for our community.



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*Miami Valley  
Hospital Mission  
We will improve the health  
of the communities we  
serve with others who  
share our commitment  
to provide high-quality,  
cost-effective health  
care services.*