

EMS PROFILE

THE SAVANNA COMMUNITY AMBULANCE



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Savanna Community Ambulance Association
*Providing Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical
Services to the Savanna Community*

The Savanna Community Ambulance Association is a not for profit association that contracts EMS services to both the City of Savanna and the Savanna Fire Protection District. Savanna Ambulance is licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a Paramedic level service, working under the OSF Northern Illinois EMS system (St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford, Illinois).

The service has two ambulances, 1-E-13, is a 2006 Ford/Medtec and is licensed at the Paramedic level, and 1-E-15 is a 2001 Ford/Medtec and is licensed at the Basic level which can be field upgraded to ALS depending on personnel.

Savanna Community Ambulance History

Prior to the late 1960's and the early 1970's pre-hospital care in much of rural America, including Savanna, consisted of the local mortician responding with a hearse converted for ambulance use. In 1966 the National Highway Safety Act put the Department of Transportation in charge of developing an Emergency Medical Service System.

Into the early 1970's the local funeral home in Savanna continued to transport patients. With the new rules and regulations the owners decided to cease operation. The local cab company attempted to run the ambulance service but with ever-changing rules and regulations and reimbursement problems with Medicare and insurance companies, the owners decided it was no longer feasible. On June 1, 1973 the Savanna Fire Department temporarily took over the ambulance service for six months while the city explored other alternatives. H. Lee Riffe and Milo Reed became the first EMT's in Savanna.

In August 1973 Mayor Don Nehkorn appointed a seven-member board to develop a volunteer