



MT

Lincoln

Richard Cosner

Self

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Subject: EMS as an Essential Service, Agenda Item 7, SJ 13

Comment: As an Volunteer EMT with a Volunteer Ambulance in a rural area and older Montanan, I see EMS from all sides through residents and travelers.

When time is crucial our EMS can provide ALS and BLS within a reasonable time frame in our service area but terrain, weather, location, and availability, is not always favorable. Services in metro areas are benefitted with full time LE, Fire, and EMS, so responses can be multi agency. Here we might get a Deputy or MHP Trooper in a few minutes to an hour, Volunteer Fire has the same limitations as the Volunteer Ambulance, and if no one is available, the fastest EMS is 30 minutes (LifeFlight-weather dependent) or an hour by ground (Helena). That's just getting here! As you have seen with recent events in Lincoln, sometimes those who serve others have accidents as well.

We must do better for rural areas to get equal and quality services when there is an emergency. Think about this when you travel through rural MT, who's coming and WHEN?