



# LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

3rd Floor Government Complex  
809 State Street  
LaPorte, Indiana 46350

JOHN W. JONES  
Administrator

## LAPORTE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

January 1974: Steve Wurster, E.M.S. Coordinator under Don Wingstrom, Administrator of the LaPorte County Health Department. The E.M.S. was run out of the Health Department at Clay Street and Jefferson Avenue in LaPorte, IN. There were fourteen (14) field personnel working a 24 hours on and 24 hours off schedule.

Michigan City had two Basic Life Support (B.L.S.) ambulances, LaPorte had one ambulance and the Wanatah area still utilized funeral homes.

1975: Indiana developed their own certification for E.M.T.'s. LaPorte County E.M.T.'s who were nationally registered were grandfathered in.

1976: The first group of nine (9) employees (E.M.T.'s) were sent to Gary Methodist Hospital to start paramedic school.

1976: The E.M.S. moved with the Health Department to the third floor of the LaPorte County Complex.

January 01, 1977: Wanatah base was established out of a garage purchased by the county. The E.M.S. expanded to 24 field personnel and two (2) clerical.

April 1977: Six (6) of the original nine (9) students graduated from paramedic school. LaPorte County E.M.S. went to three (3) shifts, working 24 hours on and 48 hours off.

*1989/1994/1995 State of Indiana "Paramedic" Provider Of The Year  
Coordinating The Delivery Of Pre-Hospital Care Throughout Laporte County*

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- October 1977: LaPorte County E.M.S. activated the Advanced Life Support (A.L.S.) system with their new paramedics. Michigan City had one A.L.S. ambulance and one B.L.S. ambulance. LaPorte had one A.L.S. ambulance and Wanatah had one B.L.S. ambulance.
- 1979: Donald V. Daley became the first paramedic administrator. The E.M.S. office moved to 500 Monroe Street, LaPorte, and detached from the Health Department.
- 1979: A non-emergency convalescent transfer ambulance was established in Michigan City.
- 1980: A second part-time B.L.S. transfer ambulance was established to assist with transfers going to out-of-county hospitals.
- January 1981: The second A.L.S. ambulance was added to Michigan City and the B.L.S. ambulance was eliminated by its A.L.S. replacement.
- January 1982: LaPorte base was built and E.M.S. personnel were moved from a room on the second floor of LaPorte Hospital. LaPorte County E.M.S. then had 34 field personnel. The full time B.L.S. transfer ambulance in Michigan City was converted to a B.L.S. emergency ambulance in LaPorte, giving LaPorte two (2) ambulances around the clock.
- 1983: The B.L.S. ambulance in LaPorte went A.L.S. giving LaPorte two (2) full time 24 hour A.L.S. units.
- Late 1983: A full time transfer ambulance was reinstated in Michigan City during work business hours.
- 1986: Ira Mills Jr. was named the third E.M.S. Administrator and the second administrator who was also a paramedic.
- 1989: LaPorte County E.M.S. was named "Indiana State Paramedic Provider of the Year".

- 1992: The E.M.S. office moved back up to its own office on the third floor of the LaPorte County Complex from 500 Monroe Street.
- 1994: LaPorte County E.M.S. was named "Indiana State Paramedic Provider of the Year". LaPorte County became the only service to ever win this award twice.
- 1994: LaPorte County E.M.S. formed a paramedic bike team with two (2) bikes from donations. The bike team worked a single event; The Oktoberfest in Michigan City, IN.
- 1995: LaPorte County E.M.S., was again, for a third time, awarded the "Indiana State Paramedic Provider of the Year" award back to back. No other service has to date won the award more than once.
- 1996: A third A.L.S. bike was added from donations and proved instrumental in working the crowd at the Presidential visit.
- 1996: John W. Jones, Paramedic, became the fourth E.M.S. Administrator.
- 1997: A fourth paramedic bicycle was added to the team from donations.
- April 01, 1997: A third advanced life support ambulance and seven employees are added to Michigan City. The LaPorte County E.M.S. now employs forty-nine (49) full time field personnel, four (4) clerical, and six (6) part-time employees and is touted as the best paramedic service in the State of Indiana. Currently LaPorte County operates six (6) 24 hour emergency ambulances and one 40 hour a week transfer ambulance.