

## What's In Your Station? By "Safety John"

### Delaware County EMS, Indiana Special Operation Unit

Delaware County sits 45 minutes northeast of Indianapolis, Indiana. Home to Ball State University, the City of Muncie and 50,000 permanent residences the Delaware County EMS provides Paramedic and Hazmat response to their citizens. Operating out of 3 stations with 6 ALS Ambulances, 1 Kawasaki Mule and the county's Hazmat Trailer the EMTs and Paramedics have a full plate. Currently they are responding to between 45 and 50 calls per day. With a paid staff of 33, just over half being a certified paramedic, all of their 4 daily staffed ambulances operate as ALS units. Two reserve Ambulances stand ready for back up crews and special operation needs. The mule is part of Special Operation Team that includes State Fair Paramedic Response and the Hazmat Team.



The Delaware County EMS just recently got in to the Hazmat business since none of the Fire Departments in the county are hazmat response capable. In fact, just as the EMS function was prepared to respond as a Hazmat unit, the city of Muncie entered into the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder EMS program. The Delaware County EMS is the only EMS department in the State of Indiana that responds as an actual Hazmat Team. Currently they have 6 member certified at the Technician level and 25 at the operation level, with additional training in progress. At their Station 3, where their Hazmat trailer is stationed, they have a state of the art training facility. A twist from the standard, their Ambulances are painted dark red while the local fire departments engines and ladders are painted lime yellow. The Paramedics and EMTs with Delaware County EMS are active members in the IAFF Local 1345, yes their own local. A recent substantial grant will provide additional equipment and two more vehicles for the hazmat team, creating a well equipped response vehicle and trailer.

Their current trailer is designated as a Decon Trailer, with the EMS function handling all medical and decontamination needs while a neighboring county responding to handle the entry team. This response system is still in place, but causes delays waiting for the entry team to respond. I understand from visiting a local fire department that some of their members are trained to the operational level. The EMS unit's current trailer is equipped with a command post with radios, phones, weather station, satellite and TV system. They also have a substantial library. All forms of decontamination equipment are available such as Level A and B suits, SCBAs, shower tent, pools and cameras. With the grant money and additional training in progress the team should be fully operational shortly.

For additional information on the Delaware County EMS see their web page at [www.delawarecoems.org](http://www.delawarecoems.org).