



Emergency Medical Services District

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Hello everyone. I have some news to report to you. I'm going to be leaving the EMS Agency in January; my last day will be Friday, January 15th. Travis Kusman will be taking over as the Acting Director until such time as the process for naming a permanent replacement has been completed. Travis is smart, experienced, and capable and I have no doubt he'll do a great job as the Director.

As you well know, our EMS system has faced some significant challenges over the past few years. I've done what I can to deal with those challenges as effectively as possible. We still face some challenges but they can be overcome. The important thing is that we're much better off now than we were just a few months ago.

I think it's also important to remember that operationally and clinically, our system is not "broken." Far from it. Over the last few years, when I started to feel a little "cagey" in my office, dealing with all the issues a position like mine deals with, I did a ride-along. Sometimes I would hop on an ambulance or even an engine and witness what passes for daily life "on the streets" here. Every time I did that, I was reminded about what really matters and about how well our system performs for the people who need us. That rock solid foundation won't change no matter what happens with the redesign and RFP process. The many dedicated and talented people who comprise this EMS system guarantee that.

I'm going to the Monterey County EMS Agency to work as an EMS Analyst. I'll be working for someone I've known and respected for years. I'm looking forward to being a little more "hands on" with some of the EMS projects down there. I've missed that.

Over the last month, I've been gradually transitioning my responsibilities over to Travis to try to make the changeover as smooth as possible. For now, anything you would normally bring to my attention should continue to come my way until and unless you hear otherwise. Thanks for the privilege of being your partner in this great EMS system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FC", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Fred Claridge
EMS Director