

# Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service

230 Railroad Street

P.O. Box 412

Reedsburg, WI 53959-0412

Phone & Fax (608)-524-3074

E-Mail: raasljs@rucls.net



reedsburg.ambulance@yahoo.com

Linda Schommer, Business Manager

Joshua T Kowalke, Director

May 29, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service is second in State to transition to Critical Care Level**

Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service upgrades level of service from the Paramedic level to the Critical Care Paramedic Level.

Recently the State of Wisconsin EMS Unit announced that certain hospital to hospital transfers would have to be taken by a Critical Care Ambulance Service versus a Paramedic Service as they have been in the past. This upgrade will ensure that those patients who have a critical illness or injury receive the most appropriate care during their transport.

Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service Commission decided to move to the Critical Care level late in 2011. Since that time three of Reedsburg's Paramedics have completed the Critical Care training with a remainder of the Paramedics slated to complete the training by the end of 2012. The Critical Care transition date is planned for January 1, 2013. Reedsburg Ambulance is only the second service in the State to transition to the Critical Care level according to the State EMS Office.

Director Josh Kowalke said, "This new level will allow us to provide the highest level of care to our residents and visitors when they need to be transported to another hospital. This is a very good thing for the Reedsburg area."

The Critical Care upgrade will not have an added cost to the tax payers, as the only associated cost is the training for the Paramedics. Reedsburg Area Medical Center has partnered with Reedsburg Ambulance to help with the tuition costs of the classes. Says Robert Van Meeteren, Reedsburg Area Medical Center President/CEO, "RAMC is pleased to support our local ambulance service as they have and continue to upgrade their services to these higher levels. Receiving the best and most efficient emergency services allows the greatest possible positive outcomes for our community from the moment someone calls for help to the moment they arrive at our Emergency Room. We are proud to be a partner with our ambulance service as we all strive to offer the highest level of care available to our community."

Reedsburg Ambulance last upgraded its service to the Paramedic level in January 2010. The ambulance covers about 300 square miles, serving almost 18,000 people and responding to over 1500 calls a year.

###

*Delivering the highest quality pre-hospital care for all we serve.*