



Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

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Registered Charity Number 263238

UPDATE ON SARS ACTIVITY

Call-outs

In 2014, SARS volunteer doctors and paramedics attended 253 critical care incidents in over 70 different towns and parishes around Suffolk. In over 30 Suffolk locations we attended more than one incident during the course of the year. We were mobilised a further 74 times to incidents, which proved to be not as serious as first reported, taking our overall call outs for the year to 327 including these stand-downs. All this was done on a voluntary basis with our doctors and paramedics giving their time and expertise without charge to the patient, the ambulance service or the tax payer.

Sadly responding to serious road traffic collisions remains our most common call out, followed by cardiac arrests and serious falls. In 14% of the incidents attended by our members we were the first medical resource on scene. This once again highlights the value of having locally based volunteers who are experts in emergency medicine.

Our records show that SARS specialists have been mobilised regularly to incidents in areas in the close vicinity of your village – Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Rougham and along the A14; we remain active in your area.

Spreading best practice

Our members continue to disseminate best practice through individual presentations and training sessions with relevant groups (Community First Responders, St John Ambulance, Ambulance paramedics etc.). We are also providing free CPR demonstrations to the public at the events we attend around Suffolk. We want to do our bit to raise awareness of the importance of bystander CPR in helping prevent fatal cardiac arrests.

What do we spend your donation on?

Our service receives no statutory funding and we rely on voluntary grants and donations to help maintain our life-saving activity across Suffolk. Your donation helps fund vital equipment and training for our volunteer doctors and paramedics. The benefit of our voluntary resource is that our specialist responders carry equipment and drugs which are not available on front-line ambulances. It is this type of equipment which you are helping to fund. This equipment combined with a SARS specialist's additional training and

experience means that our volunteers can make interventions at the scene of an incident which wouldn't otherwise be possible outside the hospital environment.

Our local responders include some of the most highly skilled prehospital clinicians in the region and the benefit they can bring to an incident scene can save lives, reduce the chances of patients suffering permanent disability and facilitate a patients speedy transfer to hospital.

2014

In 2014, parish and town council donations helped us fully equip a charity rapid response vehicle which is now being used to provide team shifts around Suffolk. This team response is the only critical care team resource based in Suffolk. These team shifts combining 2-3 SARS volunteers (normally a doctor and a paramedic) are an addition to our existing network of local solo responders. Your donations have also helped us fully equip, two new SARS solo responders increasing our capability of helping patients around Suffolk who need specialist care before they reach hospital. Finally donations helped us cover the purchases of multiple pieces of replacement equipment for our volunteers ensuring they can continue to provide the best possible pre-hospital care to the patients they treat.

2015

In 2015, we want to equip more autonomous responders prioritising areas of Suffolk where we have less coverage. Each responder can cost between £7000-10000 to equip. We also want to purchase another automatic compression device (we have one on our team vehicle) which can be used on cardiac patients to increase their chances of survival. Finally we need to continue to upgrade and replace the equipment and drugs which are used by our responders, on a day-to-day basis, as they help treat critically ill patients in their local community.

We cannot make such investments without the support of all sectors of the local community including the parish and town councils of Suffolk. Grants from this sector cumulatively make a massive difference for a small charity like SARS and we could not exist without your help.

The voluntary commitment given by our doctors and paramedics equates to thousands of pounds in time and expertise. They give up their time because they are passionate about providing additional pre-hospital care for people in need in Suffolk and the wider East of England region. There will always be patients who will benefit from the enhanced immediate care that a SARS volunteer can provide and we want to help as many of them as possible.

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us achieve this objective.

If you would like some more information about SARS please visit our website www.sars999.org.uk or facebook page (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service).

You can also download our annual report at the charity commission site www.charitycommission.gov.uk – charity number 263238.

Ben Hall

General Operations Manager

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

TESTIMONIALS TO THE IMPACT OF THE WORK OF SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE

"In December 2014, my daughter Lyndsey was involved in a serious road traffic accident. One of your team was first on scene and tended to Lyndsey. She was subsequently transferred to Addenbrookes NCCU where she was treated for multiple serious and life-threatening injuries. Whilst she received fabulous treatment from the three trauma teams dealing with her injuries and has now been discharged from Addenbrookes, there is no doubt in our minds that the immediate treatment she received from the SARS volunteer was hugely influential in the outcome – It may not have been so positive otherwise. I would like to send sincere thanks from all the family, it is obvious you do such a good job."

Graham Collier, father of a patient treated by a SARS critical care team

"Having always been fit and active, the start of the New Year involved a fall from height resulting in a severe fracture of my leg. Whilst suffering the intense trauma and pain of the injury, a SARS doctor came to the assistance of the superb ambulance crew and with his expertise and specialist painkilling drugs my transfer to the ambulance and the hospital was made bearable. When an accident strikes it happens so quickly and renders you completely reliant on the skill and care of the medical professionals. The fact that SARS responders give their time on a volunteer basis, even over bank holidays when others are enjoying time with their loved ones, is a tribute to their care and commitment to providing a rescue service to people in their time of greatest need. I will never forget the help and care received from SARS."

Robert Norman treated by SARS volunteer doctor

"Would like to say a very big thank you to everyone involved who helped me after my crash. I'm pretty sure I would not be here without you. I am well and on the road to a full recovery. I was somewhat amazed to find that you were all volunteers that are willing to give up your free time to do such a wonderful thing."

James Hazell, patient treated by a SARS volunteer doctor

"My son was involved in a serious accident when his car left the road and collided with a tree. A Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) doctor arrived within minutes and was the first medical resource on scene. The doctor told me that my son was as close to death as anyone he had seen in all the years he had been responding to medical emergencies. Nevertheless, thanks to everyone at the scene and the specialist care provided by Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, my son was able to return to school just six weeks' later. Earlier in my career, I spent five years as a sergeant in the Traffic Unit at Bury St Edmunds. During this time, a SARS doctor was present at every major crash that I attended. I now have both professional and personal experience of the service that SARS provides for the people of Suffolk and the surrounding area. I think we are all very fortunate that SARS volunteers are prepared to undertake this difficult work without any financial reward."

Derek Wilding, father of a patient treated by a SARS volunteer doctor

