



## Charleston County News Release

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See photos: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/emscompetition.htm>

### Charleston County EMS Wins Skills Competition

A team from Charleston County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recently won first place in the 2007 Carolina Competition response skills competition and third place in the written exam.

The Carolina Competition is a competition of paramedics from EMS agencies in North Carolina and South Carolina who compete in two response scenarios and a written examination. Held this year in Dunn, N.C. on Oct.19-20, the 2007 competition featured a total of 25 two-person EMS teams from both states.

Charleston County EMS sent two teams to this year's competition. Sgt. Jason Hammond and Capt. Todd McGeorge were on one team, and Cpl. Rob Edgerton and Sgt. Rodney Ross were on the other.

Hammond and McGeorge's placed first in the skills competition involving two response scenarios. In addition, McGeorge scored third place on the written exam.

"I am very proud of both Charleston County teams that competed, and congratulate the winners," said Don Lundy, Charleston County EMS Director. "These competitions can be extremely stressful. The judges are asking you questions and writing down comments, and the scenario continues to unfold in front of you in real time, so your mind is racing."

The skills competition involves two scenarios, which are developed by the hosting agency. The teams are kept away from "the scene" so no one sees the situation in advance, and each team is sent out one at a time.

In the 2007 competition, both scenarios involved multiple patients. The first scenario was a lightning strike in a soccer field with five patients, and the second scenario was an explosion at a nursery with four patients.

Judges evaluated the teams' medical care and scene control based upon national standards. Points were given to each team based upon how well they handled the scene.

The Carolina Competition began in 1997 in McColl, S.C. with only a few teams registered. Many of them were from local EMS agencies that were less than an hour's drive away. Charleston County EMS took the top honors that first year, and has placed in the top four every year since.

"The Carolina Competition has become the yardstick by which all other multi-state EMS competitions are measured, as is evidenced by the numerous team entries from both states," Lundy said. "A challenging, thought-provoking, fair experience for all team members is guaranteed, and Charleston County is proud to have participated this year."

The 2008 Carolina Competition will be held in Charleston, S.C. and will be hosted by Charleston County EMS. 2008 will mark the twelfth year of the competition's existence.

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