

**Municipality of Bethel Park  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tri-Community South EMS One of Only 178 Ambulance Services throughout the U.S., Canada and West Indies to Receive Three-Year Accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Ambulance Services**

*Bethel Park, PA* – Tri-Community South EMS (*TCS-EMS*) has been awarded a three-year re-accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Ambulance Services (*CAAS*) for its compliance with national standards of excellence.

“This is the highest level of certification an EMS system can obtain in the United States, Canada and the West Indies,” said TCS-EMS Director Nora Helfrich. “Currently there are only 178 ambulance services that were able to attain this accreditation throughout these regions, and I’m pleased to say that we’re one of them!”

The CAAS board of directors voted unanimously to award the accreditation at their June 29 meeting. In early June, CAAS evaluators inspected TCS-EMS’ records, vehicles and facilities, and interviewed personnel. Their inspection showed full compliance with all CAAS accreditation standards.

“This year’s reaccreditation process was different from all of those in the past,” said Helfrich. “Due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the site inspection and staff interviews were done remotely by digital connection. However, the inspection was no less rigorous.”

Tri-Community South EMS is one of only five services in Pennsylvania and one of a very few municipally-owned services in the nation to achieve this accreditation. The accreditation process is open to all types of ambulance services including private, fire-based, public authority, municipal third-service, regulated public utility and inter-facility transport, among others.

“To achieve re-accreditation, we had to demonstrate that our policies, procedures and documentation continue to meet the accreditation standard, and that continuous quality improvement processes and accurate data about system performance have helped the system better meet the needs of the community,” said Helfrich.

**(MORE)**

## **TCS-EMS CAAS Certification**

### **Page 2**

The accreditation granted to Tri-Community South is for three years, the longest period CAAS grants accreditation.

“This shows that we met or exceeded the most stringent standards in all operational and administrative areas, in personnel, equipment, policies and procedures, documentation, and community responsibility,” said Helfrich.

Tri-Community South has maintained accreditation continuously since April 2006.

CAAS is an independent, non-profit organization comprised of EMS and health care experts established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America’s medical transportation system. The primary focus of the commission’s standards is high-quality patient care. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the ambulance service’s total operation and its relationships with other agencies, the general public and the medical community. The Commission’s standards often exceed state or local licensing requirements.

Several states now recognize CAAS accreditation as evidence of qualification for state licensure.

“Pennsylvania does not do this,” said Helfrich. “So, in February, we also completed a triennial state licensure inspection conducted by the regional EMS council to ensure that our service complies with all state laws and regulations and that our personnel and equipment meet all state standards.”

For more information on Tri-Community South EMS, call 412-831-3710, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or visit [tcsems.org](http://tcsems.org).

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