

For immediate release:
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New England Emergency Paramedics, EMTs, and Dispatchers Vote to STRIKE Monday July 30, 2007!

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers employed by American Medical Response (AMR) throughout Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire voted 92% Wednesday to walk off the job in response to AMR's repeated violations of federal labor laws and their proposal to cut employee wages and benefits.

AMR is a division of Colorado based EMSC – (NYSE: EMS) - and is the largest ambulance company in the U.S. AMR ambulances provide the primary emergency 911 responses for 18 cities in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire, including Newton, Brockton, Framingham and Plymouth. AMR ambulances are the back up 911 provider for 22 other cities in the tri-state area.

The EMS workers are represented by the National EMS Association (NEMSA), which represents approximately half of AMR's unionized work force across the U.S. NEMSA President Torren Colcord commented on the situation: "The EMS workers who love taking care of the people in the New England communities, and do an excellent job, have tolerated a constant barrage of mistreatment by their employer for years and have attempted every other conceivable avenue with no relief."

AMR recently settled several federal charges filed by NEMSA for violations of labor law, only to have AMR commit new violations within the past month. Those labor law violations are one reason for the strike. "The workers are really upset that AMR constantly commits these violations and then thumbs its corporate nose at the laws specifically designed to protect employees from such actions," said Colcord. EMS workers are also upset over a contract offer from AMR that would reduce pay and benefits from their current status. "AMR is very anti-employee," said Framingham AMR Paramedic Jim Gambone. "We are constantly having to worry about our jobs; not because of some wrong doing, but because the company is just like that."

Colcord says that AMR has taken a very hard anti-employee stance since AMR's corporate parent EMSC became a publicly traded company last year. "There is nothing wrong with a company making a profit, but when they do it by violating the law and sacrificing their employees, it's a different story."

All 1000 Paramedics, EMT's Dispatchers and wheelchair van workers in the bargaining unit will not be working any AMR operated ambulances starting at 7:00 AM Monday July 30, unless AMR meets the workers' demands, which were spelled out in a notice sent to company representatives on the July 18th. That notice states that AMR must cease their unlawful actions and meet the union's last bargaining proposal. "We are not asking for much. These hard working EMS employees have not seen an adjustment in their wage scales for four years. We

are trying to retain wage scales for all employees, eliminate a disparity between certain groups of employees with a 2 percent adjustment and give everyone a 3 percent cost of living adjustment,” said Colcord. “This proposal being so modest underscores the EMS workers willingness to work with AMR.” Colcord also stated that the employee’s unwillingness to accept changes in health benefits being pushed by the company is rooted in what he calls the company’s typical double standard. “AMR wants our members to pay more for the same health benefits AMR provides to other employees in the operation for less cost.”

Colcord states that it is NEMSA’s hope that an agreement can be reached before a strike occurs, but based on AMR’s actions, he is not optimistic. The bottom line Colcord says is: “The hard working EMS professionals here have worked tirelessly and sacrificed much to simply come to an equitable relationship with AMR that works for everyone, but to date the company has responded in the exact opposite direction and the workers have simply have had enough.”

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