

For immediate release:
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EMS CONTRACT REACHED! PARAMEDIC STRIKE AVERTED

An agreement was reached at approximately 2pm Sunday as representatives from the National EMS Association (NEMSA) and American Medical Response (AMR) met in 11th hour discussions. Due to the agreement, the walkout of over 1000 EMS workers throughout New England, scheduled to begin Monday morning at 7am, was averted.

According to union officials, Sunday's discussions began with concern that the strike had very little chance of being averted. But, after a rocky beginning early in discussions, AMR met NEMSA's contract demands. What was going to be a 1% wage cut has now turned into an approximate 14.75% - 18.75% increase over a two year term. Health insurance disparities were completely corrected and AMR agreed to resolve all Federal labor law violations previously committed by the company.

There is little doubt that AMR's willingness to work with their employees for this contract was aided by the overwhelming pressure applied by the EMS workers who showed total commitment to stand up against AMR. "We are very relieved that we were able to reach an agreement without a strike", said Paramedic Sarah Holmes. Worcester EMT Lou Nizzari, who was committed to walking with 1000 of his co-workers, commented, "Not one of us wanted to strike, but with a 1% wage cut, unfairness in health insurance and all the labor violations, AMR had given us no other options."

"Overall this workforce actually achieved more than what was demanded. We are very pleased in AMR's willingness to agree to a fair contract for these dedicated EMS professionals." commented NEMSA President Torren Colcord.