Medic 459 unit to help staff Fincastle Rescue Squad on Fridays this fall

Posted: Thursday, August 27, 2015 6:00 pm

The Fincastle Rescue Squad, Jefferson College of Health Sciences Emergency Services Program and the Botetourt County Department of Fire & EMS have joined together in an effort to provide more opportunities for paramedic students to get a unique rural EMS experience, as well as working toward recruiting students as volunteers and assisting with covering calls for service.

Aug. 21 marked the inaugural date of the staffed EMS unit known as “Medic 459.” The unit is staffed by a Jefferson College of Health Sciences paramedic student, a Jefferson College of Health Sciences Preceptor and a driver from either the Fincastle Rescue Squad or the Department of Fire & EMS.

Chief of Fire & EMS Jeff Beckner spearheaded this effort to help find another mechanism to potentially recruit paramedic students to Botetourt County as volunteer fire and EMS providers.

“This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, and I’m extremely excited to see the program take shape,” said Beckner.

While paramedic students are nothing new to Botetourt County, this concept is. Medic 459 is a unit housed at the Fincastle Rescue Squad building and is an additional resource added into the system on Fridays throughout the fall. Jefferson College of Health Sciences will be working hand-in-hand with Fincastle Rescue and Fire & EMS to ensure that a preceptor and a student are scheduled while Fincastle or Fire & EMS will provide a driver to make the full crew.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to work with Fincastle and Botetourt to give our students more opportunities for providing care and enhancing learning experiences,” said Jefferson College of Health Sciences Emergency Services Program Director John Cook.

The Fincastle Rescue Squad is graciously hosting the program and is welcoming Jefferson College of Health Sciences, their employees and students with open arms. Fincastle Rescue Captain Terry Schodowski expressed her excitement, pointing out that Fincastle is hopeful to gain several new energetic, already EMT-certified providers through their recruitment efforts with the program.
Medic 459 will be staffed on Fridays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. while college is in session.

Submitted by Cody Sexton