

# Mid-Michigan Special Operations Support (SOS) Team

Under the auspices of *Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority*

*In an effort to support our public safety community heroes, and ultimately make our community a better place to work and live, this SOS Team was recently created. **The mission** of the SOS Team is to provide medical support during public safety special operations.*

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## WE NEED PARTNERS TO HELP ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION!

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- As a sponsor of the **SOS Team**, your organization will embark on a worthwhile project that can make an important difference in the community. By helping the team get trained and acquire equipment, you are helping strengthen the ability of our public safety personnel in the region to better respond to our communities' needs during times of crisis. The **SOS Team** provides medical support before, during, and after special public safety operations. You will enable us to “take care for those who take care of our citizens”. Our team is composed of Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Nurses, Physicians, and other health care providers who are dedicated to serve our community by medically supporting law enforcement, counterterrorism, fire operations, hazardous materials, search and rescue (ground and water), and mass gathering situations among others.
- Through sponsorship your organization will gain enhanced name recognition from the positive publicity generated by the joint effort to ***promote the well being of others in the community.***

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## Who does the SOS Team Help?

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The Team will provide **medical support** the following type of operations:

- Law enforcement operations:
  - Tactical Operations
  - Counterterrorism
  - Raids and Stand-offs
  - Other High-Risk or Extended operations
- Fire ground operations
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat) operations
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
  - Ground SAR
  - Water/Dive operations
  - Dog SAR
  - Mounted (Equine) SAR
- Mass gathering activities (potential for multiple casualties/patients)

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## Fact Sheet

### DESCRIPTION

#### What is *SOS Team*?

The SOS Team is a group of dedicated, volunteer professionals, highly qualified and highly trained, who are committed to provide **medical support** for mission accomplishment to the various public safety agencies and/or specialized teams around the mid-Michigan area and the “Thumb”. The team members are committed to “care for those who take care of our citizens and community”. Examples of these agencies/teams are the Saginaw Emergency Services Team (tactical law enforcement), the Sanilac County Sheriff Emergency Response Team (tactical law enforcement), the Tri-Cities HazMat Regional Response Team, Law Enforcement-based Search and Rescue Teams, area Fire Departments, etc.

### THE NEED

#### Why organize an SOS Team?

Public safety personnel risk their lives every day on behalf of our citizens and communities, so that we have a better place to work and live. Their operations are at times extremely risky, with many of them sustaining significant injuries in the line of duty that may result in disability and even death.

In addition, due to the strenuous nature of most of these activities and the particular environmental exposures, they are at higher risk of sustaining medical emergencies and illnesses, like heat-related emergencies, cardiovascular-related emergency, respiratory conditions and other occupational toxic exposures, among others. Heart attack, for instance, is a major cause of death among firefighters and police officers in the line of duty. Studies show that all these risks are not limited to actual operations, but in fact, are common occurrences during regular training activities.

While these professionals take care of our communities someone needs to be watching out for their medical wellbeing. Traditional medical care is not only distant from the scene of a mission or training, but also lacks of the specialized training and experience to deal with the particular injury and illness patterns seen in the specialized operations. In addition, in times of crisis it may already be taxed caring for others in the community. The SOS Team provides on-the-spot, specialized care by health care professionals who train with these individuals on a regular basis, specifically understand the rigors of their missions, and are well prepared to care for them under any circumstances.

In addition, SOS Team members provide preventive medical care and serve as liaisons to other healthcare professionals and private practitioners as they care for these patients. While we are not “operators” but **exclusively medical support function**, in the area of Search and Rescue we have identified that in addition to our main medical support functions, we can provide additional manpower and expertise during actual operations. Therefore, our SAR Unit is very much committed to augment and complement those units we support by providing high quality search and rescue services in addition to our main mission of medical support. To the best of our knowledge, we have the only civilian mounted SAR (equine) unit in the state and one of few civilian dog SAR units in the state.