

Press Release

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Huron Valley Ambulance bike medics keep fairgoers safe for 5th straight year

ANN ARBOR, MI, June 3, 2005 – For the fifth straight year, Huron Valley Ambulance will donate emergency medical coverage with their paramedic bike teams at the Ann Arbor Art Fairs. With their equipment scaled down to transport in bike packs, the paramedics maneuver easily through crowds and respond quickly to those in need. Two bike teams of two paramedics will ride through the crowd while additional paramedics staff HVA's Mobile Operations Center, a customized motor home that provides privacy for those needing first aid. The center will be located on North University just west of Fletcher.

The HVA Bike Team trains regularly to prepare for event coverage every year. Equipped with lights and sirens, the medics carry advanced life support equipment, including oxygen, a defibrillator, and essential medications. Armed with this equipment, maps of the venue, and portable radios, they ride throughout the area, staying within a certain range to reduce their response times.

Although everyone thinks of the heat-related emergencies that occur at outdoor summer events, the bike medics are also prepared for seizures, heart attacks or any of the other emergencies that occur in any population of 500,000 people over four days, whether event participants or residents of a small city.

Based in Ann Arbor, Huron Valley Ambulance is a nationally accredited nonprofit community ambulance service covering Washtenaw, western Wayne and southwest Oakland counties.

HVA would also like to give everyone a few tips on how to have a safe Art Fairs adventure. HVA's Art Fairs Safety Tips:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Eat light meals.
- Wear light colored, lightweight, loose clothing and comfortable shoes.
- Leave dogs and small children at home (there's even less fresh air down where they are!).
- Wear plenty of sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat.
- If you experience heavy sweating, clammy skin, nausea or vomiting, seek medical attention right away.

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