

Consolidate your Student Loans:

[Payment Calculator](#) [Do You Qualify?](#) [Get More Information](#)

To print: Select **File** and then **Print** from your browser's menu.

This story was printed from **fsunews.com**.

Site URL: <http://www.fsunews.com/vnews/display.v>.



Photo courtesy of Thagard Student Health Center Students in the First Responder Unit at Florida State University volunteer their time to keep their fellow students safe and help treat their injuries.

Honoring EMS

Campus First Responders recognize National Emergency Medical Services Week

by Lauren Walleser
May 16, 2005

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is being celebrated from May 15 through May 21 in order to honor the dedication and

hard work that EMS workers give to those who are injured and in need of aid. Florida State University's own EMS service, The First Responder Unit through Thagard Student Health Center, will join in promoting this week of recognition.

According to Daniel Bulecza, coordinator and instructor for the First Responder Unit, First Responders are trained to care for injuries that occur at student events, such as concerts, Dance Marathon, FSU Flying High Circus, and Relay for Life, but are especially used at intramural sports games.

"There was a student who died there a few years ago because he got hit in the head with a softball," Alyssa Hanson, student director of operations for the first responder unit said. "That's basically how we got started working at the intramural fields."

Thagard offers a class which students can take for credit through the College of Human Sciences to become certified to be a member of the Unit. Others who already have certification in EMS can join as well. Hanson said that eventually there may be a program offered to become an Emergency Medical Technician, but for now these other certifications are the only ones offered at FSU.

There are currently approximately 50 members on the First Responder Unit, and there are no restrictions to becoming a member other than to become certified and to pass protocol tests given by the Unit. All Unit members are volunteers.

"It is important for us to be there," Hanson said. "We might not have a patient every single time that we are working, and other times we might have five patients in one outing."

During the week, First Responders will transport students living in dorms to and from Thagard during normal hours of operation if they are too ill to get there themselves, a service taken over from the police station. Their offices are located on Thagard's fourth floor.

First Responders will be around on campus during National Emergency Medical Services Week in order to promote their services and encourage others to join.

The First Responder Unit is funded by the Student Government Association and is overseen by Thagard directors and administrators.

