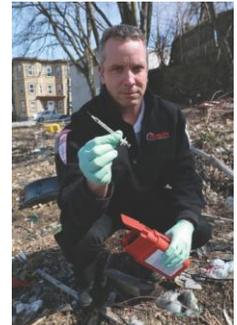


## **Trinity E.M.S. Launches Program to Track Opioid Epidemic**

Trinity E.M.S. has partnered with the Lowell Police Department to launch a new needle tracking program to help them better understand the opioid epidemic that has effected so many lives in the area.

As needles are discovered in the community, residents are urged to call the Police Department's business line to file a report and have Trinity dispose of any dangerous needles. Each pick up becomes a point on the map that Trinity and local health and public safety officials can use to identify patterns regarding this epidemic.

"If you look at where the overdoses happen in the city, these are the hotspots where needles are found," said Jon Kelley, Trinity's Director of Communications. "In an hour, we can get that information to anyone who needs it."



In 2015, Trinity responded to over 380 reports of discarded needles. Unfortunately, 2016 is off to a busy start as Trinity responded to 36 reports from February to March. However, each report is beneficial as it assists the program in identifying areas and narrowing the search for where heroin is commonly sold.

"If you're a heroin user at home, you're going to throw away the needle a little more discreetly," said Rick Barry, Trinity's Director of Operations. "If you're using it outside, you're probably in more of a rush and you might be near your dealer."

Last year, Trinity was able to track a particularly deadly batch of heroin as it responded to overdose calls along Bridge Street. Trinity was also able to provide cities and towns with a profile of the average overdose victim (a white male in his 30s or 40s) and is hopeful that more useful data will be discovered through this new program.

For more on this program, [click here](#).

Trinity provides 911 services to 13 municipalities in the Greater Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire including Lowell, Chelmsford, Dunstable, Haverhill and Groveland, Massachusetts as well as Plaistow, Atkinson, Newton, Hampstead and Sandown, New Hampshire.

Founded by John Chemaly and Gary Sepe in 1991, Trinity E.M.S. has grown to be the largest emergency medical services provider in the region. Trinity currently has over 270 employees and 75 vehicles working out of seven bases throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire.



***WE RESPOND TO YOU.***