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**BARTLETT**  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## Press Release

**Release Date:** August 19, 2020  
**Contact:** Chief William Gabrenya  
**Description:** Stroke Unit

Stroke is the leading cause of disability and the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. Multiple research studies have determined that early intervention has the potential to positively impact patient outcomes. Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital (CDH), located in Winfield, IL, in partnership with Bartlett Fire Protection District, has implemented a state-of-the-art Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) to bring stroke care directly to the area for potential stroke patients. This Mobile Stroke Unit is the first of its kind in Illinois.

The Mobile Stroke Unit is a specialized ambulance equipped with tools and staff commonly only found inside a hospital. The specialized equipment and staff on the MSU allow the team to quickly diagnose a stroke on-site, and by coordinating electronically with a Northwestern Medicine neurologist, immediately begin treatment. The unit is immediately dispatched along with Bartlett Fire District personnel when the 911 dispatcher determines the patient may be experiencing a stroke.

The NM CDH Stroke Unit is equipped with a CT Scanner to take detailed pictures of the brain, and a direct telemedicine connection to Northwestern Medicine neurologists. If the neurologist determines that the patient is experiencing an ischemic stroke (caused by a blocked blood vessel in the brain), the physician may advise the MSU team to administer a clot-busting medication used to treat a stroke. In the case of the hemorrhagic stroke (caused by a blood vessel rupture in the brain), a clotting agent may be recommended and administered. This early intervention can lead to better outcomes, as stroke patients are typically not administered medication until they arrive at the hospital.

The Bartlett Fire District is excited to offer this service to their residents. For more information, please visit [www.bartlettfire.com](http://www.bartlettfire.com).



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