



# CLAYTON COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **“New Community Treatment Units Hit the Streets”**

**Riverdale, Ga.-** On Monday March 14, 2016 the Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services makes history by placing in service their brand new program Community Treatment Units to serve and care for the citizens of Clayton County.

In 2013, the Clayton County Board of Commissioners charged Fire Chief and EMA Director Landry Merkison with implementing innovative ideas and solutions to serve the healthcare needs of the community. The first step in this process was to reevaluate and revamp an aging EMS system and how to better pre-hospital care. What started as a thought and discussions amongst the Chief Merkison and his staff in an office, and then written down on paper, is how the idea of the new Community Treatment Unit was formed.

Clayton County is the first and only fire-based EMS agency in the United States to employ non-physician practitioners for the purpose of a “treat and release” program. While the EMS delivery model has had little to no change since its conception, this program will allow CCFES to deliver an elevated scope of practice and innovated service delivery model which was previously unexplored. CCFES has hired nine Nurse Practitioners along with nine Paramedic Lieutenants to man three CTU’s stationed around the County. These units will bring the clinic to the patient. With the ability to treat the patient in the home, it will also drastically reduce the influx of patients in hospital emergency rooms causing longer than average wait times.

On Monday, two of the three units roll out on the streets of Clayton County making EMS history. The third unit is in production and set to be in service within a week.

CCFES plans to unveil these new units and personnel on Monday March 14, 2016 at 8:00am on the front ramp of Station #11 located at 7810 Highway 85 in Riverdale.

For more information please contact Battalion Chief David Vazquez.

7810 Hwy 85  
Riverdale, GA 30274