



MEDIA RELEASE
From the
**YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**

November 19, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

York County Fire and Life Safety Launches Whole Blood Program

Life-saving initiative brings a new level of emergency care to the scene

York County Fire Chief Allen W. Baldwin is proud to announce the addition of a Whole Blood Program to the department's EMS protocols. The program allows for the administration of whole blood to critical medical patients who may require blood and trauma victims at their location and during transport to a medical center, which can significantly improve patient outcomes. The program was launched on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

"The time that passes from our first responders' assessment of the patient to their arrival at a hospital is crucial," Chief Baldwin explained. "The timely delivery of whole blood to the patient could be a determining factor in their survival."

Whole blood is blood that contains red cells, white cells, platelets, and plasma—components desperately needed by people who have experienced significant blood loss. The replacement of these components delivers vital oxygen, nutrients, antibodies, and proteins that the body needs to function properly.

This initiative is the result of a collaborative effort between York County, regional medical centers, and dedicated blood donors, supported by several years of planning by department staff. A comprehensive training program was developed and delivered by our EMS staff, ensuring that first responders across the County's fire stations are fully prepared to use this lifesaving capability while also being genuinely appreciative to have it available when treating traumatic injuries. In addition, recognition is owed to the Tidewater EMS Council and its unending support of the "Whole Blood Initiative" throughout our region.

"From the beginning, this program has had the support of County leadership, and we appreciate that level of interest and dedication to this initiative," Chief Baldwin said. "In addition, our community is greatly supportive of our efforts, and we are pleased to offer this service to our residents and visitors."

Questions can be directed to the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety at 757-890-3600.

Photo caption: York County Fire and Life Safety personnel stand beside EMS-1 after acquiring newly issued whole-blood containers. The whole blood will be kept on each of the County's battalion trucks for treating massive blood hemorrhage caused by trauma or, in some cases, blood loss from medical conditions. Pictured are the staff members responsible for the implementation of the Whole Blood Program: (left to right) Captain Robert Kudley, Battalion Chief Melissa Doak, Lieutenant Geoffrey Swanson, and Assistant Chief Joel Acree.