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RIDER ALERT SAFETY CARDS AVAILABLE AS PART OF MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Fort Worth, TX — **May 9, 2017** – May is <u>Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month</u>, and to support victims and First Responders, MedStar and area First Response agencies are making <u>Rider Alert</u> safety cards available for all area motorcycle riders.

Matt Zavadsky, MedStar's Chief Strategic Integration Officer, explains that this card is born out of experience; it has been designed by paramedics who have been on both sides of an accident as the injured rider or as medical help. "As an EMS provider and a motorcycle rider, I have the Rider Alert card and sticker on my helmet. Accessing this basic information after an 'unscheduled dismount' can sometimes be impossible. This small tool could mean the difference between life and death."

"Many motorcycle crash victims are unconscious when responders arrive making it very difficult for EMS personnel to know the patient's medical history or emergency contacts" explains Dr. Neal Richmond, MedStar's Medical Director. "Another major concern for crash victims are untrained Good Samaritans attempting to remove the rider's helmet, which can cause further injury."

The Rider Alert card (www.RiderAlert.org) is placed inside a rider's helmets and contains vital, life-saving information, emergency contact, and any important medical history. When first responders arrive on the scene of a motorcycle accident, a one-inch, sticker on the outside of the helmet will indicate that the biker has the Rider Alert Card. The sticker also warns untrained responders not to remove the helmet, which could prevent further injury.

The card is free and can be obtained at MedStar's headquarters and at most motorcycle dealerships throughout Fort Worth. If you would like to have one mailed to you, email MZavadsky@medstar911.org

Further information can be accessed via www.medstar911.org or www.rideralert.org

About MedStar

Responding to over 140,000 calls each year, MedStar Mobile Healthcare is the exclusive emergency and non-emergency ambulance service provider to over 936,000 residents throughout. Fort Worth and 14 other Tarrant County cities including Haltom City, Burleson, Saginaw, White Settlement, Forest Hill, River Oaks, Lake Worth, Sansom Park, Westworth Village, Blue Mound, Edgecliff Village, Haslet, Lakeside and Westover Hills. Established in 1986, MedStar is governed by the Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority board of directors, is one of only 132 ambulance services in the country to receive national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. MedStar was named the 2013 Paid EMS Provider of the Year by the National Association of EMTs and EMS World Magazine and is a three time awardee of EMS10 Innovator Awards by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS).



