DURING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY PATIENTS ARE OFTEN RUSHED TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT THAT COULD TAKE HOURS IN RURAL MISSOURI. FOR THESE PATIENTS, PARAMEDICS ARE CRUCIAL IN PROVIDING IMMEDIATE CARE. THAT’S WHY MU HEALTH CARE IS TEACHING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS LIFE-SAVING SKILLS EACH YEAR.

EMS DIVISION CHIEF JOSHUA STILLEY HELPS TRAIN MORE THAN 70 EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ANNUALLY TO BECOME CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDICS, A SPECIAL CERTIFICATION THAT PREPARES EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO PROVIDE ADVANCED CARE FOR CRITICALLY ILL OR INJURED PATIENTS, EVEN IN RURAL AREAS.

“Patients coming out of an ICU, needing a ventilator, getting blood products, really should have a critical care paramedic. And that's the mission we're trying to meet with our class.”

PARAMEDICS COME FROM ALL OVER THE STATE TO COLUMBIA TO LEARN HOW TO BE BETTER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS. THEY ACT OUT HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS TO HELP UNDERSTAND HOW TO REACT IN REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS. EMS EDUCATION COORDINATOR CHRISTY MCCLOUD SAID THIS IS CRITICAL, BECAUSE 1 IN 3 MISSOURIANS LIVE IN A RURAL AREA.

“We have paramedics that are 30 to 45 minutes away from a hospital. It's essential that they know their job, and they're able to perform the appropriate skills that a patient needs.”

WHETHER IT’S ASSESSING THE SCENE, GIVING MEDICATION OR STARTING TREATMENT, THESE PARAMEDICS ARE READY TO SERVE IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED THE MOST.

I’M CAILIN RILEY, WITH A MIZZOU SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE.