

The following is a Facebook post from a physician in Paducah, KY of his observation while driving home from his hospital shift in June 2016. I thought it to be a positive example of how our emergency services work together to provide support for our local community. I'm sure this happens every day in communities around the country.

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Today as I was driving home after a busy shift at work, a sheriff's department vehicle passed me with lights and siren. As I was almost home I saw traffic stopped ahead of me and I wasn't sure what was going on at first but quickly realized there must have been some type of an accident ahead. I pulled off and the closer I got to the scene saw that two people were laying on the side of the road and about a hundred feet away there was a vehicle with significant damage. I saw motorcycle helmets but no motorcycle and I must admit I was at first quite confused on how the victims were so far away from the vehicle that I saw up ahead. The riders were thrown so far from the bike that was not immediately visible and actually now that I think about it, I never saw the bike at all, but I suspect I saw a few pieces of what was left of it. First responders were there and they had already placed the victims in cervical collars and were evaluating them. Both were badly hurt and at least one of the two needed to go to a Level 1 trauma center. They were badly injured but alert and I watched as EMS arrived and were able to care for and comfort the injured. All I heard was calm reassurance for the patients as I am certain they both realized they were seriously injured. The passengers of the vehicle ahead were getting attention as well, although it was a little far from the field of view where I was standing. In a short period on the side of the road in front of me there assembled a small army of highly trained and organized personnel. While I am out of comfort zone of the ED without all of my gizmos and access to drugs and tools that I am used to, I am honestly quite often lost as to what to do. I watched as experts in their field assessed the victims, rapidly got them ready for transport while getting necessary medication administered and began transporting the patients to hospitals. Calls were being made to notify the hospitals and a helicopter was dispatched so the sickest patient could quickly be transferred after going to one of the local hospitals. The ambulances left one by one, four in all, each carrying a patient. There was an absolute mess left behind. Soon after, a helicopter buzzed overhead on the way to be able to provide quick access to a trauma center. I was amazed how all of these organizations worked together (EMS, law enforcement, and fire department) to help people that prior to that moment they had likely never met and may not ever see again. Within minutes the wreckages were gone and the road and roadside were completely clean. You could drive along a short time after and have no idea what had just taken place a few minutes prior. I would just like to say thank you to all involved in EMS, fire, and law enforcement for picking up after the rest of us and taking care of our community every day. You are amazing.