

Charles Lick, MD
Medical Director, Allina Health EMS

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Charles Lick, MD, has been an emergency physician for over 28 years in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area. He has held many various leadership roles in his career and is currently Medical Director Allina Health Emergency Medical Services.

A board certified emergency physician, Dr. Lick also serves as a staff physician in the emergency departments at Mercy, Unity and Fairview Southdale Hospitals. Dr. Lick received his M.D. from the University of Minnesota and his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame. He is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Association of Physician Specialists and the National Association of EMS Physicians.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lick has worked with multiple community, health care and civic organizations to advance the cause of early defibrillation for sudden cardiac arrest. In 2001, Dr. Lick founded Allina's Heart Safe Communities program, which was designed to increase the survival rate of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests by placing automated external defibrillators in public places. Dr. Lick received Medtronic's "Community Champion" Award in 2005 for his leadership of this program, which has placed more than 2,800 AEDs throughout central Minnesota, saving countless lives.

As Medical Director at Allina Health EMS, Dr. Lick is responsible for the care delivered by Allina Health EMS personnel and for setting equipment and training standards as well as service protocols. With more than 600 employees and 100 vehicles (70 of them ambulances), Allina Health EMS is one of the region's largest ambulance and medical transport services. Allina EMS has >100,000 responses per year, with 65% of their business being emergency calls. On average responding to more than 240 requests for service daily.

The largest employer in Minnesota, the Allina system also includes 100 clinics, 13 hospitals and a cluster of specialty care services. Dr. Lick has been focusing on improvements in cardiac arrest resuscitation for many years and has implemented numerous different treatment strategies to improve survival of cardiac arrest. Under Dr. Charles Lick's medical direction, Allina was an early implementer for a number of EMS treatments. In 2007, a trial with the LUCAS Chest Compression Device began. Currently there are 50 LUCAS devices deployed in Allina Health ambulances and LUCAS devices in Allina hospitals' emergency departments.