

# FIND THE MISSING PIECE

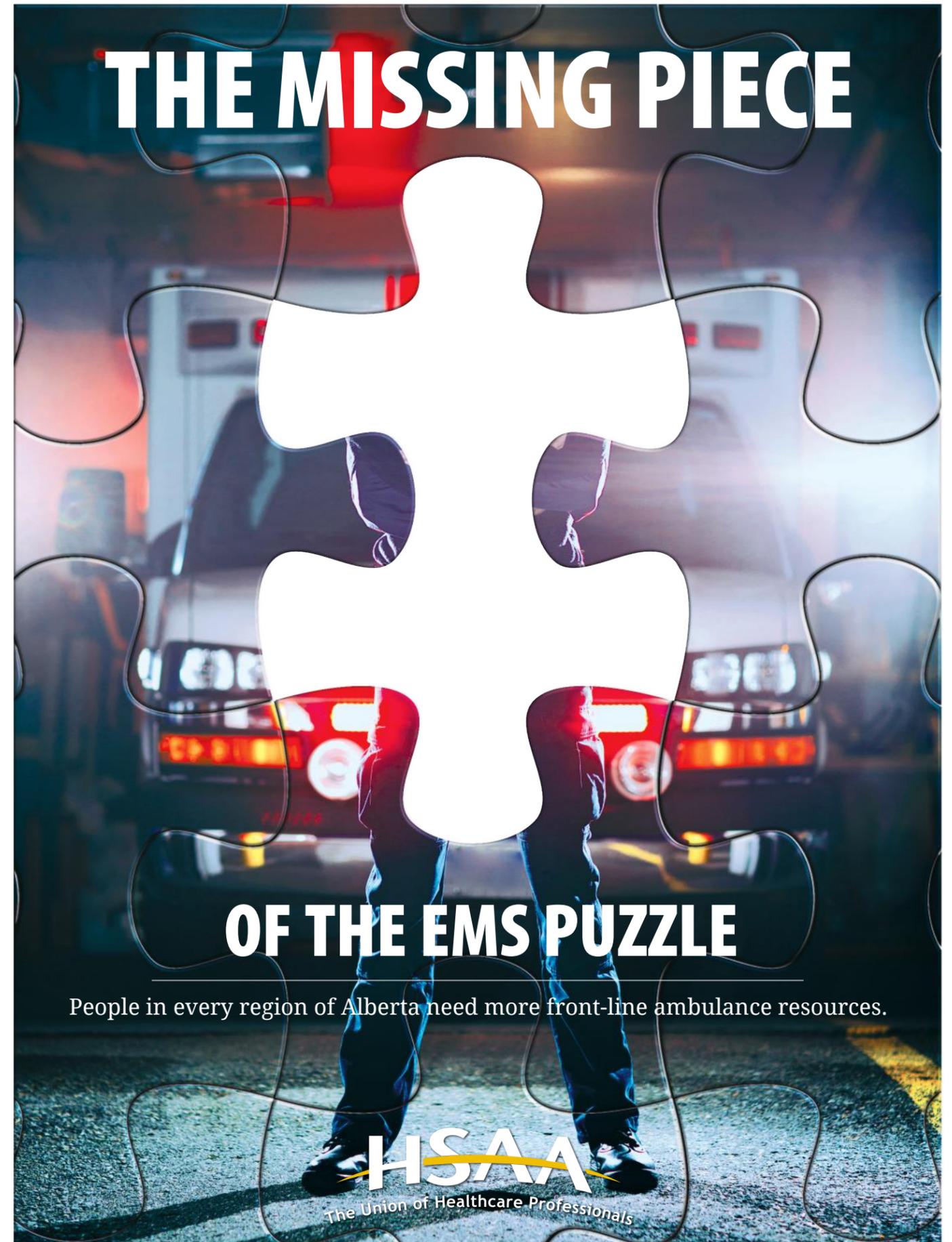


## ALBERTANS NEED MORE AMBULANCES

The Alberta government has proposed freezing the ambulance services budget for the next two years. This will not allow Alberta Health Services (AHS) to catch up with the need for more resources – more ambulances on the streets to respond to Albertans desperately needing help. While the government is slowly trying to build new facilities that will help address the delays in handing over patients at hospital, those efforts will take years to come fully into effect. Albertans suffering a sudden cardiac arrest, victims of accidents or, God forbid, another terror attack cannot wait years. They need help now.

VISIT [HSAA.CA](https://www.hsaa.ca) FOR MORE INFORMATION

# THE MISSING PIECE



## OF THE EMS PUZZLE

People in every region of Alberta need more front-line ambulance resources.

**HSAA**  
The Union of Healthcare Professionals

# IT WAS A NIGHT OF TERROR



A man first drove a car into a police officer and later drove a van into pedestrians on Edmonton's Jasper Avenue in September. But it would have been more terrifying if you'd known the truth about the ability of EMS to respond to this terrorist attack.

## CODE RED

Edmonton was on Code Red when the attack happened. That means there were no ambulances available to send to Jasper Avenue when the calls came in. **NONE.** It took between five and 10 minutes to respond to the calls.

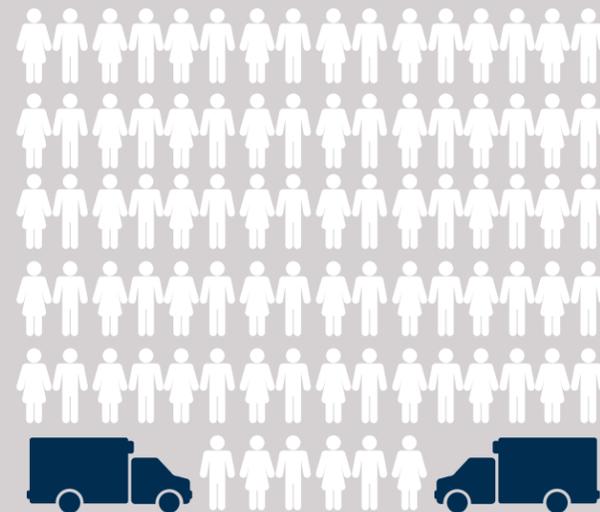


Why? Part of the problem, but by no means the entire problem, was that 20 ambulances were stuck at hospitals at the time, waiting to hand over patients, rather than poised to answer emergency calls.



## WORD FROM THE FRONT

Recently, a plane took off from Calgary International Airport but soon had to return after smoke was detected in the cabin. That's a scary moment! What's scarier is that when a call was made to have ambulances standing by in case of an emergency landing or crash – Calgary Metro EMS had only two ambulances available to respond. **TWO.** How's that going to work if a plane full of passengers goes down?



# DEMAND ON THE RISE



**POPULATION:**  
Up 505,000 since 2012

**EMS EVENTS:**  
63,000 more calls last year than 2012

**THE MISSING PIECE:**  
Fewer than 10 more ambulances

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



## FOR ALBERTANS

A shortage of EMS resources is a threat to Albertans suffering a health emergency. A lack of ambulances means longer wait times, both in urban areas and rural areas. Meanwhile, their families are experiencing distress while they wait help for their loved ones, and in some cases are fighting to keep them alive until it arrives. As larger cities get busy, they draw ambulances in from surrounding rural communities, often leaving them without Emergency Medical Services at all.

## FOR PARAMEDICS

A shortage of EMS resources is a threat to paramedics. Longer and longer shifts, more overtime, dealing with the inability to provide the level of care they know Albertans deserve, puts intense stress on paramedics and dispatchers. They are more than five times as likely to suffer mental-health injuries than regular citizens.