

Thomas O. Forslund, Director

Governor Matthew H. Mead

December 15, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

End of Year Update

We are reaching the end of another year and the end of my first full calendar year in Wyoming. This is still fun for me despite how busy it gets some times. I hope all of you take opportunity to share these letters with your personnel. Please copy this, post it on a bulletin board or hand it out. I need you to help me communicate across the state.

Relocation and New Address

Early in November we successfully completed our relocation to the CenturyLink Building on Yellowstone, Road. This is the same building that was formerly known as the Qwest Building. Our new address is:

Wyoming Office of EMS 6101 Yellowstone Rd. Suite 400 Cheyenne, WY 82002

Come by and see us in the new space.

Wyoming Advisory Committee on EMS

Otherwise known as the Governor's Committee, I am pleased to announce that Governor Mead has made his appointments to the committee:

- Jim Anderson, MD, Surgeon from Casper
- Russ Christiansen, EMTP, Paramedic/Program Coordinator, Casper College
- Geraldine Gardner, DO, Cardiology group from Cheyenne
- Daniela Gerard, MD, Ph.D., ER physician in Gillette and Medical Director for Campbell County Memorial Hospital EMS
- Cheryl Hewitt, RN, Trauma Coordinator from Jackson
- Chris Krell, MD, ER physician and Medical Director South Lincoln County EMS
- Dan Perdue, Wyoming Hospital Association

I look forward to working with the committee and offer my sincere thanks to the previous committee members.

Documentation and the WATRS

Almost every service has at least one ruggedized tablet for use with the WATRS system. These have been funded through grants from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program and through the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office. We will continue to pursue adding more of these to our inventory as funds become available.

Jay is also working hard on getting docking stations installed into the emergency departments to facilitate the transfer of records.

On-Line Credentialing

The system has been purchased and installed, but there is a lot of work to be done before it is fully operational. With the relocation of the office and the impending renewal period, I decided to put this off until the New Year. We did not want to delay anyone's renewal while we tried to get a new

system up and running. Early next year we will begin running tests and beta sites to determine how the new system will work. Meanwhile, you should continue to utilize the books as usual.

EMS Education

As you are aware there is a lot happening with EMS education, primarily the move away from the DOT standard curriculum as the accepted tool for conducting EMT classes. Resolving the new EMS Education Standards with how education works in Wyoming and all of the implications that has for rules and policies is a monumental task. Rather than struggling along without guidance, I asked the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) to bring a workgroup to Wyoming to assist us in planning for the future.

We had reworked the EMT class schedule to try and capture new material and did three pilot classes to test the validity of the schedule. Those classes were conducted in Newcastle, Cheyenne AMR, and Pine Bluffs. We did a similar project with the Intermediate program in Lovell.

One of the tasks I asked the NAEMSE to perform for me was to examine this new schedule, the process we used to construct it and the pilot classes. I invited Roger Hespe (Newcastle), Scott Murphey (Lovell) and Amy Long (Pine Bluffs) as well as Patrick Currie and Russ Christiansen (representing the Cheyenne and Casper paramedic programs) to the meeting with the NAEMSE so they could present their own programs and issues they had faced.

Overall, we all felt that the time was productive and very eye-opening. I believe that we are on the right path, but we still have much to accomplish. One thing that became clear over the course of the two days that the NAEMSE was here was the need for an EMS Education Association in Wyoming. The purpose of the Association would be to advise and assist the OEMS in developing and maintaining our Instructor/Coordinators, our curriculum, our evaluators and every component of our EMS education.

To that end, I asked Roger, Scott, Amy, Patrick and Russ to serve as an "EMS Education Advisory Council" to assist me in establishing the Association and determining the next critical steps. I think this a positive step for Wyoming and as we get this up and running, I hope you will all be supportive of the effort.

Finally, it is with deep regret that I tell you that we learned late last night that firefighter and paramedic Mike Head, Cheyenne Fire and Rescue, lost his life yesterday. Please keep Mike's family in your thoughts and prayers as well as other members of our EMS family that we have lost this year.

On behalf of Beth, Merit, Coleen, Skip, Jay, Bob, Carol, Kelli and myself, have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Stay Safe,

Andy Gienapp, MS, NREMTP

Administrator, Office of EMS

Public Health Division

Wyoming Department of Health