

Thomas O. Forslund, Director

Governor Matthew H. Mead

April 16, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Once again it seems like a long time since I communicated with all of you. We do stay busy around here, and it seems like the months fly by between the “official” communications.

42nd Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference

We’re planning on another great conference this year. The conference is set for August 16 – 19. Unfortunately, we are going to have to go up a bit on our prices (see the enclosed flyer), but we will make this well worth your money. We are planning plenty of education and updates, we have some special things in mind for the static display, and we’re planning on a “skills room” for you to knock out some of your renewal requirements. I’m particularly excited about bringing Mike Rubin as one of our featured speakers to the conference this year. Mike has a regular column in *EMS World* magazine called “Life Support” and has some great insights on a wide range of topics.

Awards Nominations and Commemoration

Now is the time to submit nominations for the Physician Medical Director, Medic of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement awards. This can be done by a simple letter to the Office. Please be as specific as you can in nominating someone. Demonstrated commitment, involvement at the local, State and Federal levels, length of service and variety of EMS activities are all important considerations in choosing who should be recognized.

As you are aware, we also like to take opportunity to honor and remember those of our community that have passed away this last year. We need your help to do this. If you lost a service member, please send us their name, the organization they served with, their birthdate and date of passing and a few pictures. We would like to incorporate them into a slideshow at the banquet.

Education

We have received many inquiries about the transition courses and process as well as future educational changes. I hope that in the very near future we will have a Wyoming EMS Education Association up and running. I think that will be an excellent forum to get better education across the State.

With the need for revision to all levels of the curriculum, plus the need to develop transition courses and new scopes of practice at all levels, we are facing a tremendous workload over this next year. This is particularly true in the category of EMT-Intermediate. In a discussion with the Physician

6101 Yellowstone Rd., Suite 400 • Cheyenne WY 82002

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Task Force, I laid out the challenges we are facing at all levels. I also asked for and received their endorsement to place the Intermediate education program “on-hold” until revisions can be made. It is our full intent to bring back a new, revamped curriculum that aligns and transitions the Intermediate level, but we need time to do the legwork and this will call for a lot of discussion with the Physician Task Force.

Reporting Compliance and Accuracy

We have continued to emphasize the requirements of reporting across the State. Every EMS agency, whether ground, air or division approved fire service is required to report, just as every hospital is required to report to the Trauma Registry. I realize this has been somewhat of a moving target over the years, but the requirement has never changed. It is each agency’s responsibility to ensure that every request for service is reported correctly.

I also challenge all of you to look at the accuracy of the reporting that is done. On several quality assurance issues that have arisen, it is evident to me that the EMT filling out the report is relying too heavily on the system defaults and auto-generated narrative. This is not a good practice. The WATRS is a tool. We try to provide the best tool we can, but every tool has its problems. Remember, if you have to go to court, the Patient Care Report (PCR) that you create is your single, best defense. Accuracy and thoroughness is your ethical and legal responsibility.

Thanks again for all you do for Wyoming. I hope to see many of you over the next few months, and you are always welcome to stop by and say, “Hi”. Take some time for yourselves and your family this summer.

Stay safe,



Andy Gienapp, MS, NREMT-P
Administrator
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Public Health Division
Wyoming Department of Health

Mark your calendar!

**42nd Annual
Wyoming
Trauma
Conference**



**3½ Days
Of Educational
Classes!**

August 16 through 19, 2012

Name (First, Last - Print Legibly Thanks!)

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone or Cell

E-mail

@

Conference Registration Fee Enclosed - Make checks payable to "WY EMS":

- \$150.00 on or before July 31

- \$200.00 August 1 or after

I need extra Saturday Banquet Tickets: _____ @ \$30.00 Each

Mail the completed registration to:
Emergency Medical Services
Attn. Beth Hollingworth
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 400
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Please make your room reservations
early by calling Little America Resort,
Cheyenne WY at 800-445-6945 and
mention "Wyoming Trauma Conference"
for special Rates.

For more information, please call the EMS office at (888) 228-8996 or visit us on the
web at: www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems

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