

May 20, 2013

Chief's Corner

Spring will soon be upon us, and I for one, will be glad to see some warm weather return to Wyoming. Hopefully, the winter has not been too harsh for all of you. I hope you take some time this summer to plan vacation time with friends and family. You all deserve and need a break from this business from time to time.

Staffing Changes:

If you weren't aware, Carol Jansen retired in February after 35 years of service to the state. It still seems very odd to walk into the Office and not see Carol. I know all of you will join me in wishing Carol the best in her retirement and my many thanks to her for her work with the EMS-C program.

With Carol retiring, Coleen King has taken over the management of the EMS-C program, in addition to her other duties. This will be a big challenge, but I am confident that Coleen will continue to build EMS-C.

And of course, Brittany Wardle is now overseeing the Hospital Preparedness Program, and is doing a fantastic job. I have high hopes that this program will continue to be of great benefit to our hospitals and EMS agencies.

Reporting:

We are beginning to track agency compliance and validity in reporting and hope to update this at least quarterly. As a reminder, per the "Rules and Regulations for Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Act of 1977", W.S. 33-36-101 all agencies are required to complete a patient care report for each request for service. This continues to be an issue and we are working to develop a new policy to ensure compliance and will distribute this when it is complete.

If you would like to confirm your agency's status, you can view the report for all services on our website at: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/emsdata.html>. Go to "EMS Data" to view the most current version.

A note on "validity": An agencies validity report as measured by the OEMS only reflects whether or not a data field was completed. It does **not** measure the accuracy of the information. Each agency is still responsible for ensuring that accurate and correct data is reported.

As always, we will be ready to assist you and will be offering training this fall on the relevant changes you can anticipate. Please contact Jay Ostby at (307) 777-6023 or at jay.ostby@wyo.gov if you would like to schedule a training session for your service.

Wyoming Advisory Committee on EMS

The Wyoming Advisory Committee on Emergency Medical Services is appointed by the Governor under the sponsorship of the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services for the purpose of assisting the efforts of various federal, state, and local agencies, private industry, and interested citizens toward the continued development and implementation of an integrated, statewide program for emergency medical services and trauma system.

Below are the next scheduled meetings for the Advisory committee:

- a. July 31 at 1:00 PM – Conference Call
- b. October 2 – In person, location and time TBD.

Dr. Jim Anderson has resigned his position with this committee. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Anderson for his complete support of me, the OEMS, the Trauma System, and Wyoming's EMS. He has been and remains a firm believer in the concept of EMS and has advocated on our behalf in many different ways. I look forward to working with Dr. Anderson in the future and if you happen to see him out and about, please take time to thank him for his support.

EMS Leadership Academy Level I and II - August 22 through 25 in Laramie

I am very excited to announce that we will be bringing SafeTech Solution's EMS Leadership Academy to Wyoming. It has long been a goal of mine to provide specific training for all of you that serve as leaders to our EMS workforce. I had the opportunity to attend this same course of instruction in South Dakota, and was immediately convinced that we needed to bring the program to Wyoming.

Over the past decade the leadership of out-of-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Wyoming has come to demand higher levels of preparation and skill. The challenges of responding to everyday medical emergencies, an increasingly regionalized healthcare system, and the decline in volunteerism have dramatically increased the need for prepared local EMS agency leaders.

The EMS Leadership Academy is a four-level program designed to prepare students to lead and manage today's ambulance services. It is for current leaders, new leaders, and anyone who has an interest in the leadership and management of ambulance services. The EMS Leadership academy is designed to give participants the basic tools and information needed to quickly and successfully assume the role of leading an EMS agency. While addressed to EMS agencies and systems of all sizes and locations, this Academy specifically addresses the challenges of leading the rural EMS Agency.

Today's EMS challenges call for men and women who:

- *See clear destinations;*
- *Inspire others to follow them toward those destinations; and*
- *Actually get things done.*

- *SafeTech Solutions, LLP*

This Academy is a joint project of the Office of EMS and the Office of Rural Health, with funding provided through the Flex Grant. It is provided **free of charge**. All you have to do is register at SafeTech Solution's website: <http://safetechsolutions.us/ems-leadership-academy/>. Class size is limited, so register early. Seating is limited and the first priority is to enroll leaders from Wyoming's smaller services. Skip Johnson is helping coordinate this, so if you would like more information please give him a call at (307) 777-6021.

Leadership Training Through the Critical Access Hospital Network

We also want you to be aware of an opportunity for training provided by the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network. This is a 16 course program that covers a broad range of topics from interviewing to budgeting. It is also funded through the Medicare Flex Grant and is **free of charge** to Wyoming EMS. For more information or to register please contact Steve Bahmer: steve@wyohospitals.com, or call the WHA at (307) 632-9344.

43rd Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference and Call for Award Nominations

Even if the weather doesn't feel like it, August will soon be here. We are lining up another full schedule of classes and training and I hope you will take every opportunity to broaden and refresh your knowledge and skills.

Two new opportunities that we will offer this year are a workshop geared to help those of you whom are educators to develop valid, accurate tests. Another unique workshop will be presented to qualify attendees as reviewers for the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for EMS (CECBEMS). Reviewing continuing education is a unique way to see what opportunities are out there and learn what is being done right and what is being done wrong.

We are accepting nominations for:

- The Governor's Award for EMS Physician Medical Director of the Year
- The Pete Vase Medic of the Year Award
- The Jim Mayberry Lifetime Achievement Award
- Bystander of the Year Award

All nominations may be done via a letter to this office. If you or your service nominates someone for any of the awards, please provide your contact information and as much detail and justification as you can as to why your nominee should be selected.

All nominations should be received in this Office by June 30, 2013.

Melody Icenogle

Finally, it is with a truly heavy heart that I tell you of the passing of Melody Icenogle. Melody was a long time EMT in the Casper area, volunteering with several agencies over the years. She was also a big supporter of the Wyoming Trauma Conference. Chris and Melody Icenogle volunteered numerous hours over the years to help us pull the Trauma Conference together. She was a warm and welcoming person that never shied from a chore or task. Her record of service to Wyoming is an honor to her and our profession and one that we should all hope to emulate. Melody particularly volunteered as the "Keeper of the Jar" selling tickets for the 50/50 drawing at the Trauma Conference. Her efforts in doing this helped make our conference fun, as well as raising money to defer the costs of the conference.

As a very small gesture in honor Melody, we have christened the drawing as the *Melody Icenogle 50/50*.

Our sincerest condolences go to Chris and all of Melody's family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,



Andy Gienapp
Manager
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Public Health Division
Wyoming Department of Health