

## MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Services  
Physician Medical Directors  
Governor's Appointed EMS Advisory Committee  
Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care  
Fire Chiefs  
Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: December 12, 2008

Subject: Office Update

The Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Interim Committee met in Cheyenne on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Consideration of a Volunteer EMT Retirement Bill was discussed. As a result the Committee will be presenting a Volunteer EMT Retirement Bill to the 2008 Legislative session that is scheduled to begin on February 11, 2008. The EMS Office extends thanks to WAPP and WAEMSA for their board members who attended the meetings and provided testimony on the merits of an EMT Retirement Bill. The EMS Office encourages all EMS personnel to contact either of these organizations for additional information on the bill. The proposed bill will be tailored after the Volunteer Firemen's Retirement Fund but will be a separate program that would be administered through the State's Retirement System.

The EMS Office's Hospital Preparedness Grant has obtained funding for ambulance services to plan and prepare for potential pandemic flu outbreaks. Merit Thomas will be sending information to ambulance services on how to obtain funds to assist their efforts in addressing pandemic flu outbreaks.

As 2007 is rapidly drawing to a close all EMTs with 12/31/2007 expiration dates are reminded that in order for you to remain certified after December 31<sup>st</sup> and to be able to function in an EMS capacity that your recertification materials and testing must be complete. You need to have a new EMT card, in your possession, in order to be able to function as an EMT after the end of December.

Paramedic authorized ambulance services are reminded to have all their skills/medication usage reports for 2007 to the EMS Office by January 10, 2008. The EMS staff will be presenting details of the third year of this study to the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee and the Physician's Task Force at their respective meetings in January.

Fall EMT classes are beginning to take final exams. Sixteen EMT-Basic along with six EMT-Intermediate classes are scheduled to start for the spring 2008 cycle of classes. Doug Schmitz, MD, EMS Medical Director will be accompanying the training staff to several of the classes in order to become oriented and familiar with how our training process operates.

The EMS Office has received funding from the Office of Rural Health to conduct two physician medical director training programs. These one day programs will be offered, at no cost, to physicians who serve as medical directors for an ambulance service. Further information will be forthcoming as the classes are scheduled.

Planning for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference is underway. The conference is scheduled for August 21-24, 2008 at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. Remodeling of the facility will be complete and will afford the EMS staff several more rooms with the opportunity to offer additional classes. While the room rates will see an increase from this past year, the conference registration rates will remain the same. The Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office and Cheyenne Fire/Rescue have once again partnered with the EMS Office. A discounted early registration packet will be available in early January. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the EMS Office. It is anticipated that up to six preconference classes will be offered.

The EMS Office is reminding all ambulance services and agencies that the Department of Health is moving their email from Novell's Groupwise to Microsoft's Outlook. As such all of the EMS staff have new email addresses. Transitioning to the new system should be complete in early 2008. Similarly the EMS website will also be moved to the Department of Health's new website. For further information contact the EMS Office.

The EMS Office's Trauma Program has received funding from the Office of Rural Health for the following:

1. Annual site license fees for each hospital's trauma registry.
2. Stipends for trauma coordinators to attend in-state regional trauma meetings.
3. Funds to the Committee on Trauma that will provide assistance for:
  - a. Hospital site reviews
  - b. ATLS class support
  - c. Up to three Rural Trauma Team Development classes.

The EMS Office has received funding from the Office of Rural Health to compensate ambulance services for their annual dues to participate in the Western EMS Network Cooperative. Ambulance services that obtain memberships in this cooperative will need to send their dues receipt to the EMS Office and their dues will be reimbursed through this grant. For further information contact the EMS Office.



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Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

The EMS staff extends their wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. We look forward to working with each of you in 2008.

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