

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

Governor Dave Freudenthal

EMS Office Update 4/23/2007

- 1. **Jackson Hole Fire/EMS** Recent progress report received from Weber State University on the progress of the second distance learning Paramedic program indicates that the students from Wyoming are in the top of the class. The class has four students from Jackson and three students from Gillette enrolled.
- 2. **EMS System Enhancement Awards** 51 applications; 6 not meeting requirements; total requests of \$88,721 with \$60,000 available to award. This represents the last year of funding for this grant as the federal guidelines indicate that disposable goods and equipment will not be eligible.
- 3. **Certification Forms** the EMS Office in concert with the Attorney General's Office, the Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care, and the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee has revised the certification forms and the process that is used for certification. This is based upon the EMS Office receiving applications from individuals whose EMS training program "follow" but do not meet the minimum requirements of the National Standard Curriculum for the various EMT levels. Individuals coming from out of state EMS training programs will have to have their programs be accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Programs that are not accredited will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Programs that do not meet the minimum recommendation of hours for the DOT's National Standard Curriculum will not be eligible for certification or testing.
- 4. **EMS Rules Revision** the EMS Office will be starting the process to revise the EMS Rules and Regulations. This is done every 5-7 years in order to keep abreast of advancements in EMS. The last revision was done in 2003. All EMS providers are invited to send in and comment on the current rules. The EMS staff will be working with the AG's Office on specific language and changes that will be instituted. One area that is of concern to the AG's Office is to strengthen the language on certification of individuals with felony and crimes against a person.
- 5. **Ambulance Administrators/Medical Directors Conference** scheduled for Friday evening, May 4 and Saturday, May 5th. Conference fees are \$25 for the first person and \$15 for additional. Scheduled speakers include: EMS attorney Steve Wirth; Dr. Don Wood, medical director for the Utah EMS Bureau, and retired Wyoming EMS Director Jimm Murray. Lunch will be provided. Registration forms are available at the conference or by contacting the EMS Office.



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- 6. **37**th **Wyoming Trauma Conference** is scheduled for August 23-26 at the remodeled Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. If you went there last year you will find significant improvements for this year. Featured speakers: Winnie Maggiore, Nadine Levick, MD, Steve Murphy, and Dave "the airbag detective" Long. Registration information is enclosed. Room reservations can be made by contacting Little America direct. The EMS Office has partnered with the State Fire Marshal's Office for a separate fire track. Six preconference classes are scheduled with five of them at no cost. There is an additional cost for cadaver lab. Banquet speaker is Kevin Fitzgerald from TVs Animal Planet. Chief Rusty Palmer again has graciously consented to serve as MC for the banquet. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue will be providing Friday evening's entertainment as well as a preconference workshop at their fire training facility.
- 7. **EMT Retirement Study** the Wyoming Retirement System has developed the RFP for the study. Their time line for completion of the study is to have a final report to the Director of the State Retirement System by August 15, 2007 and a report to the Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee at their fall meeting. This will allow the Committee to decide how to proceed in drafting a bill for consideration at next January's legislative session.
- 8. **EMT License Plate** Thanks to Senator Pat Aullman's efforts EMTs can, beginning July of this year purchase a special license plate that identifies them as a currently certified EMT. The special plate will require an individual to present a copy of their EMT card and verification of their current status through the office. The specialty EMT license plates an additional \$30.00. A copy of the license plate is on the EMS website.
- 9. **Legislators** The EMS community has a unique opportunity to have their voices and needs heard and addressed by the legislature. This past session has seen 4 legislators who are currently or have been certified EMTs. Senator Pat Aullman from Thayne, Representative Tom Lubnau from Gillette, Representative William "Jeb" Steward from Saratoga, and Representative Sue Wallis from Recluse, Each of these individuals have expressed an interest in promoting EMS. I encourage each of you to get to know these individuals and voice any concerns you may have on EMS issues.
- 10. **Health Department** Dr. Sherard has been reappointed as the Director of the Health Department. His appointment is good for four more years. He has indicated that the EMS programs will remain under his supervision. He welcomes your comments and input.
- 11. **Ambulance Service to Close** The EMS Office has received notification that Hanna EMS, an all volunteer ambulance service, will cease operations on May 18, 2007. Hanna EMS has been serving the Hanna, Medicine Bow, Elk Mountain, and northeastern Carbon County for



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many years. With cessation of operations by Hanna EMS area residents will have to contact ambulance services in Rawlins (40 miles), Saratoga (60 miles), or Laramie (80 Miles) for assistance.

12. **New Ambulance Services** – Wyoming's number of ambulance services has risen for the first time in the past five years. Sundance has opened a separate division in Pinehaven. Sweetwater Medics has begun operations in Rock Springs. Yesterday, we received an application for a basic non-emergent transfer service, Great West Ambulance, in Casper.