

**MEMORANDUM**

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

From: EMS Office

Date: March 20, 2006

Subject: Office Update

The legislative session wound up last week. Two EMS related bills were successfully passed during the session. Copies of the bills will be sent to all ambulance services and can be found on the legislative website. Senate Enrolled Act No. 57 provides tuition free post-secondary education for dependents of EMTs and peace officers who die in the line of duty. This is similar to legislation passed last year for firefighters. The legislation was sponsored by Senator Pat Aullman and Representative Tom Lubnau. The second bill that was successful for EMS was House Enrolled Act No. 46 sponsored by Representative Ross Diercks. This bill provides for extending the date of the payment program to hospitals for unreimbursed trauma care through June 30, 2007. The bill also includes a provision that enables ambulance services to be eligible for these funds. Specific guidelines for ambulance services will have to be developed as under the present trauma rules no ambulance service would meet the requirements for eligibility to receive the funds.

Unlimited access to the EMS Office will soon be a thing of the past as the Department completes the initial phase of remodeling the Hathaway Building and begins preparations for the movement of the Supreme Court into the Hathaway Building. Anyone desiring to enter the EMS Office will need to have an appointment and will be required to sign in at the front desk to the right of the elevators on the fourth floor. As a result of the changes individuals will no longer be able to "pop in" for recertification or National Registry testing without prior scheduling with the EMS staff. This fall will see the EMS Office develop a testing schedule for those desiring to take the recertification exam at the EMS Office. Reminders will be sent to ambulance services as these changes are implemented.

The EMS Office has processed vouchers for 63 of the 72 ambulance services for the \$1,500.00 training stipends. The remaining services are encouraged to submit their vouchers as soon as possible as the funds are available for a limited time: Star Valley – Afton, Alpine FD/EMS, Wyo. Medical Center – Casper, Glendo Volunteer Ambulance Service, Castle Rock Medical Center Ambulance Service – Green River, Hawk Springs FD/EMS, Carbon County EMS – Rawlins, Ten Sleep FD/EMS, and Wamsutter EMS. If you have not received your voucher and/or have questions concerning the use of the funds contact the EMS Office.

EMS System Enhancement Awards deadline was Friday, March 17, 2006. As of today, the EMS Office has received fifty (50) applications requesting over \$82,000.00 in assistance. With only \$50,000.00 available the EMS staff will spend considerable time evaluating each application. The awards will be presented at the Southeast Wyoming Trauma Conference in Torrington on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This year will see a change in the format for the disbursement of the awards as the EMS Office; will be sending vouchers to each ambulance service that receives an award. Previously the EMS Office purchased the requested equipment and shipped it to each ambulance service.

The Board of Medicine recently approved several requests from physician medical director for additional medications for EMT-Intermediates and Paramedics. Protocols will be developed by the EMS Office and forwarded to all ambulance services and medical directors. In addition, the Board approved the ability of all EMTs to administer the 2-PAM and Atropine self injectors which have been received and distributed to ambulance services and hospitals that are designed to protect personnel in the event of a nerve agent incident. The Board also approved the request from the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee to permit EMS personnel to be used by facilities and public health agencies to provide assistance with immunizations/vaccinations during pandemic events or in the event of staff shortages. The individual facility will be responsible for providing medical oversight and specific training should they elect to use EMS personnel in these situations.

EMS Week is scheduled for May 14-20, 2006. EMS Week packets will be sent to ambulance services and trauma coordinators as soon as the EMS Office receives the EMS Week posters. A request has been forwarded to have Governor Freudenthal proclaim this week as "Emergency Medical Services Week." It is hoped that each community takes the time to recognize their EMS professionals who serve on Wyoming's front line of health care delivery.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Trauma Conference is taking shape. Registration forms are included with this letter. The EMS staff will have forms with them as they travel to classes across the state and the forms are available on the EMS website or by contacting the EMS Office. Four pre-conference classes are scheduled at no additional cost to those signing up for them. However, space is limited in these sessions and you must be registered for them **prior** to the conference.

Contact the EMS Office for further information on the availability of space in these classes. Room reservations at Little America should be made as soon as possible as the cutoff date, for the discounted EMS rate, is earlier than it has been in the past. Items to be raffled this year include a \$1,000.00 gift certificate from Travel Management Inc. and a rifle from Slick's Sporting Goods in Douglas.

Spring EMT classes will be finishing in May. Coleen King and Skip Johnson have trained a new class of evaluators which will provide much needed assistance as the spring finals always fall at time where there are many school year end events taking place.

The EMS Office faces the potential elimination of several valuable avenues of funding. The 2007 President's budget eliminates the following programs and their associated funding for the EMS Office: EMSC (\$98,000), Trauma Grants (\$40,000), AED Grants (\$160,000), and the Office of Rural Health's Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants (\$50,000) for EMS System Enhancement Awards; \$23,100 for annual hospital trauma registry site licenses and \$15,000 for EMT-Intermediate instructor payments). Attempts will be made by several federal groups to reinstate these proposed cuts. For further information on these contact the EMS Office.

The EMS Office has been contacted by Jon Said who has reported that Jay Johnson, President of WAEMSA has resigned and Jon will be assuming the President's position. Jon indicated that all correspondence to WAEMSA should be sent to his Big Piney address.