

## Holiday Update

December 6, 2005

The EMS Office extends best wishes to all EMS providers and agencies for the holiday season.

December marks the beginning of the recertification rush for half of the EMS providers. The EMS Office is required to process and return all recertification materials that are complete and have been submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Individuals recertifying this year will receive new certification cards that are plastic and color-coded depending on an individual's level of certification.

The scheduling of spring EMT classes has begun with approximately twelve (12) EMT-Basic classes scheduled. Locations and contact information for interested individuals are available from the EMS website or by contacting the EMS Office.

The EMS Office has been shipping out over 100 AEDs as part of this year's Rural Access to Emergency Devices grant. For those agencies who have received AEDs previously are reminded of the AED legislation that requires your personnel to maintain current training in the use of the AED. The Attorney General's Office has instituted a policy that individual contracts must be signed and submitted for each AED that is sent out. For further information contact Bob Dean at the EMS Office.

The EMS staff have been working to simplify the advanced skills reporting form and will be sending out the 2006 forms within the next several weeks. Likewise 2006 WATRS forms have been ordered and will be distributed by the end of the month. Year 1 of the 5-year Paramedic skills/medication usage forms are being evaluated and reports will be made available to the two EMS advisory groups in January with reports also being sent to the ambulance services and physician medical directors involved.

Dr. Richard Luce, an epidemiologist from the CDC, assigned to the Health Department has completed an initial analysis of data in the Trauma Registry. Dr. Luce will be making his report to the CDC later this year. Individuals desiring to receive a copy of this make request one by contacting the Jay Ostby at the EMS Office. It is hoped that this initial evaluation will lead to further analysis and the institution of prevention programs in areas where clusters of injuries have been identified.

The EMSC program continues to offer PEPP classes with recent classes held in Riverton and Jackson. Contact Carol Zorna for assistance in scheduling a class in your community. Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) classes can be provided, at no cost, to the students by contacting Merit Thomas at the EMS Office.

Wyoming students in Weber State University's pilot distance learning program continue

to be at the top of their class. To date only one student from Wyoming has dropped from the program. Didactic training is conducted in the students local communities with clinical experience, field internship, and ambulance ride time completed in the Utah and Billings areas. Students are scheduled to complete their training in the spring of 2006. A second distance learning program is tentatively scheduled to begin in August of 2006. Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne will be starting a certificate Paramedic program beginning in January of 2006. Casper College will begin a two-year Associate Degree Paramedic program in the fall of 2006. Interested students may contact Kelly Simkins at LCCC and Jolene Knaus, RN at Casper College.

The EMS Office continues to search for a Trauma Coordinator. The two regional trauma centers have set up and held initial meetings for their respective trauma regions. The current Trauma Rules and Regulations have been revised, reviewed by the Attorney General's staff, and will be sent to the Governor's Office later this week. A public comment period will follow review from the Governor's Office. The EMS Office has revised the Trauma Coordinator's position. If approved the starting salary will be increased in hopes of attracting more applicants. Reimbursement forms for hospitals to use when requesting funds for uncompensated trauma care will be sent to all hospitals by the end of December. Hospitals are reminded that in order to be eligible for the funds their trauma registry data must be current with the EMS Office.

The EMS staff continue to work on the details of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Conference scheduled for August at the Little American Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. The registration rates will remain the same. An early bird registration discount will be available after the first of the year. The conference will see a modification to the format with general sessions in the morning, a luncheon with speaker on both Friday and Saturday, and the afternoon breakout sessions being offered in three tracks: EMS, Fire, and Bioterrorism/Hazmat. Participants will be asked to identify which tracks they will be attending when they register. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue has, again, offered to provide the entertainment for Friday evening. Preconference classes are being scheduled.

Ambulance service business license renewals are being processed. Ambulance services are reminded that they must be renewed prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. If you have not submitted your renewal application contact Beth Hollingworth at the EMS Office.

The EMS Office recognizes that EMS personnel are "on duty" during the holidays and often are called out during family events. While the majority of Wyoming's residents can plan and enjoy the holidays, they can also be assured that in the event of any medical need trained, equipped, and qualified EMS providers are available 24/7. Best wishes to each and every EMS provider from the EMS Office staff.