

Office Updates

October 25, 2005

The remodeling of the fourth floor of the Hathaway Building is almost complete. The EMS staff are unpacked and settling back into their offices. Our telephone and fax numbers remain the same. The new EMT registry is tentatively scheduled to be installed by the end of October. The EMS staff have been beta testing the system over the past three weeks.

The EMS Office continues to receive information from the National Registry on the computer adaptive testing (CAT) format that will be implemented in January of 2007 by the National Registry. To date, the National Registry has identified the following locations for potential test sites in Wyoming: Casper, Cheyenne, Torrington, Gillette, Sheridan, Powell, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Evanston. The ability to schedule groups of individuals to test at the proposed sites is an issue that is unresolved at this time. The EMS Office has requested that the National Registry consider maintaining the present system for the rural/frontier states. It is hoped that a reply will be available for the presentation at the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee meeting in December.

The EMS Office welcomed Matt Hedger to their staff in late September. Matt is a retired USAF helicopter pilot. He holds two Master's Degrees and has been hired for the EMS data analyst position. Matt presently is assisting Jay Ostby with the trauma and EMS registry data collection efforts.

Recertification testing continues across the state. Individuals are reminded that testing is available at the EMS Office during the week. The office is open from 8 - 5 and personnel are asked to call ahead to make sure there is space and time available. Individuals are reminded that all recertification materials need to be postmarked by December 1st in order to insure that they will have new certifications returned before their current cards expire at the end of December. While many ambulance services submit their personnel's recertification materials you are reminded the EMS Rules and Regulations stipulate that the ultimate responsibility for submission of recertification material rests with the individual EMT.

Certificates of attendance from the 35th Wyoming Trauma Conference will be mailed out to individuals this week. The EMS staff has begun preparations for the 36th Wyoming Trauma Conference. The conference will be held at the Little America Resort and Conference Center in Cheyenne, August 24th - 27th. Thursday will be devoted to preconference classes consisting of four or eight hour blocks. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will have general sessions in the mornings. Friday and Saturday will have lunches at the conference with a speaker each day. Afternoon sessions on Friday and Saturday will see attendees will have a choice of three tracks being offered: 1. EMS, 2. fire service, and 3. a Disaster/Bioterrorism/Preparedness track. Chris and Mellody Icenogle from Evansville EMS, Kris Bachellor from Pinedale EMS, Dave Simkins from Cheyenne Fire/Rescue, and Gary Scott, Chief of Campbell County Fire have agreed to assist the EMS staff as they prepare the conference. Rusty Palmer, Assistant Chief

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS has been invited to serve again as the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet on Saturday evening. Further information will be made available as speakers, sponsors, and vendors are secured.

Merit Thomas, HRSA Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Coordinator extends an invitation to ambulance services seeking to have the Western States Burn Center personnel from Greeley, Colorado present an Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) course for their personnel to contact her for scheduling a class in your area. To date over 15 classes have been conducted around the state. There are no costs to the service that serves as the host for the classes. The eight hour program is provided at no charge to the community. Class size is limited and individuals cannot be "on duty" when attending the class.

For over two and a half years the EMS Office has been reviewing, soliciting comments, and providing input into the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *The National EMS Scope of Practice Model*. The two drafts that were initially developed were reviewed by the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee and the Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care with comments sent to the group writing the document. The document has been an attempt to develop the next generation of EMS provider guidelines and link it to the *EMS Agenda for the Future* document. The results are not binding on any state and serve only as a recommendation. In reviewing the document, the EMS staff recognize that the needs and concerns of the rural/frontier states were not adequately addressed. Wyoming EMS will not be adopting the levels as proposed in the final document that has been published. Copies of the document will be sent to all ambulance services within the next several weeks. Individuals desiring copies may contact Jay Ostby at the EMS Office to be guided to a website link.

The upcoming legislative session will see the EMS staff assisting the Wyoming Medical Society with the medical aid station. In the past, there have been physicians and nurses who would volunteer to staff the station during the session. Staffing the station has become increasingly difficult. The EMS Office will be soliciting EMS personnel to assist in the provision of coverage during the session along with the physicians and nurses who volunteer their time. For further information contact Bob Dean at the EMS Office.