

## EMS Office Update

September 13, 2005

After working out of temporary offices, for the past two and a half weeks, with only a single phone line to the staff, the EMS staff are back in remodeled offices. Anyone coming to the EMS Office will see several of the staff in different locations on the fourth floor as the remodeling continues in preparation for the move of administration from the first to the fourth floor later this fall followed by the move of the Supreme Court to the Hathaway Building's first floor after the first of the year. Along with the remodeling will be increased security for those seeking access to programs in the Hathaway Building.

A lot has transpired for the EMS staff since the last update. Jimm Murray, Administrator for the Community and Family Health Division and the former EMS Program Manager for twenty-five years announced his retirement from State Government. Jimm along with Ken Cole came to Wyoming in the late 1960's to establish the EMS Office within the Health Department. Jimm served as the initial training officer for the EMS Office and became the Program Manager when Ken Cole left Wyoming to become Missouri's EMS Director. Jimm has been instrumental in the establishment of many of Wyoming's EMS programs, was a founding member of the National Association of State EMS Directors, and was one of the most valuable individuals to the Health Department during the legislative sessions. His contributions to the EMS community was recently recognized nationally when he was awarded the Rocco V. Morando EMS Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Association of EMTs Conference that was held in New Orleans just before Hurricane Katrina hit the area. In fact, Jimm and his family were on the last United Airlines flight out of New Orleans that Sunday morning. While Jimm and Karen will be moving to Omaha in order to be closer to their grandchildren they will return to Wyoming in the summers. The EMS staff wish him the best.

The recertification cycle has started with testing being conducted around the state. Recertification notices and the schedule of testing locations have been sent to all who are scheduled to recertify this fall. A copy of the test schedule is on the EMS website. A new look will be coming to the EMT cards that will be sent out this fall as the EMS staff initiate a new EMT registry that will print out your EMT certification on plastic cards the size of a credit card. The new cards were on display at the 35<sup>th</sup> Trauma Conference and we have received many positive comments.

Fall EMT-Basic classes have started with classes being held in the following communities: Casper, Cheyenne, Gillette, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Sundance, and Torrington.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Conference was held in Cheyenne, August 25 - 28 with over 250 people in attendance, which was an increase from last year. Paul Werfel and Dr. Bryan Bledsoe, nationally known EMS authors and educators, were the keynote

speakers at this years conference. Friday evening the attendees at the Cheyenne Depot were treated to an evening of food, drinks and horse carriage tours of downtown Cheyenne, courtesy of Cheyenne Fire/Rescue. Saturday's banquet was presided over by Rusty Palmer, a member of the Governor's Appointed EMS Advisory Committee and Deputy Chief of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS. State Auditor Max Maxfield presented the Governor's Award for Physician Medical Director of the Year to Duane Abels, DO from Rawlins. Dr. Abels is the first three time winner of this award previously receiving the award in 1983 and in 1988. Mr. Maxfield presented the Pete Vase Award for EMT of the Year, which was given posthumously, to Robert Henderson, EMT-Intermediate/Firefighter from Evanston who was killed in the line of duty this past spring. Robert is the first Wyoming EMT to have given his life in the line of duty. Accepting the award for Robert was his father, Buck who came from Orange County California. Also in attendance were Robert's wife Anna and their three children, his sister Riki Haukaas and her family, Chief Don Bodine along with several members of the Uinta County Fire and Ambulance Service, and Abe Wheeler, EMT/Firefighter who was injured in the call that took Robert and Jacob Cooks lives. Also honored were the EMT class coordinators of the year with Hubert McAlister of Lyman receiving the Basic Coordinator of the Year and Dave Simkins of Cheyenne receiving the Advanced Coordinator of the Year Award. Kevin Fitzgerald, DVM, from the television show Animal Planet, and a regular at the Comedy Works in Denver was the evening's featured speaker. Several of the prizes that were awarded went to the following: 27" TV/DVD/VCR to the first responders of Encampment, Pat Patterson of Dayton won the rifle raffle of a Ruger Model 77 with a Nikon 3-9 scope, Digital camera to Casper Mountain's First Responder/Search & Rescue; EMSC bag to Denny Boehne of Wright, Cardiac Science's EMT bag to Abe Wheeler from Evanston, a weekend for two at the Holiday Inn in Thermopolis went to Bob Dunn of Pinehaven, and the 50/50 winner was Jason Teeters of Sidney, Nebraska. Planning for the 36<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Trauma Conference has begun with the conference to be held in Cheyenne at the Little America Hotel and Resort. The EMS staff extend their thanks to the vendors and sponsors of this years conference and to Mellody and Chris Icenogle who laid the groundwork for the conference. The conference is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Further details will be available as the conference is finalized.

The EMS Office is still looking for a Trauma Program Coordinator as well as an EMS/Trauma Records Analyst. Applications can be obtained through the State's website. The trauma program continues to function under the direction of Doug Schmitz, MD, Trauma Program Medical Director. The EMS Office has received notification of another year of HRSA funding, in the amount of \$40,000 for the trauma programs efforts. The two designated regional trauma centers have held or have scheduled their initial regional trauma advisory meetings. Two hospitals, Wheatland and Worland, will have their facilities visited this fall as part of their redesignation process. Draft rules for the reimbursement of uncompensated care have been developed and are being reviewed to insure they meet the intent of the recently enacted statute. Forms for submission of claims will be developed by the EMS Office prior to January, 2006. Jay Ostby, EMS Financial/Statistical Specialist has rebuild each of the hospital's trauma registry. Trauma Coordinators are reminded to send their data to Jay

on a monthly basis. Any questions or concerns about the Trauma Program should be directed to Dr. Schmitz or Jim Mayberry at the EMS Office.

As a result of the moves, remodeling, and conference planning the EMS Office has several EMS System Enhancement Awards to order. For those ambulance services that have not received their awards orders have been placed and equipment will be coming into the EMS Office within the next several weeks. If you have questions on the status of your award contact Beth at the EMS Office.

The EMS Office has received notification of grant award for another round of AED acquisition; the Office of Rural Health has received renewal of the Rural Hospital Flex Grant; and another year of HRSA Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Grant has been received. Details, contact points, and activities associated with these will be forthcoming as the budgets are setup.

This weekend will see the largest ATLS class conducted in Wyoming with 22 participants, 5 refreshers, and 7 auditors scheduled for the class to be held at the Family Practice Residency Center in Cheyenne on September 17<sup>th</sup> & 17th.

Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) classes and Hospital Emergency Incident Command (HEICs) training classes are scheduled across the state. For further information contact Merit Thomas at the EMS Office or visit the EMS website for locations and times. Each of these training sessions are provided at no cost to the individual or the hospital.