

Governor Dave Freudenthal

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Services

Physician Medical Directors

Governor's Appointed EMS Advisory Committee

Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care

Fire Chiefs

Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: July 3, 2008

Subject: Office Update

The Volunteer EMT Retirement System became effective on July 1st. EMTs are encouraged to start enrolling for benefits from the system. In order to be eligible for the system an EMT must be affiliated with a licensed ambulance service. Full time paid and benefited EMTs are not eligible for enrollment. The Volunteer EMT Retirement System is based upon the Volunteer Fireman's Pension Fund but is separate from that system. The Wyoming Retirement System will manage and oversee the EMT Retirement System. Individual contributions to the system are \$12.50 per month and may be made by the individual or an agency for the individual. For further information contact the Wyoming Retirement System at 1-307-777-7691. Representatives will be at the 38th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference to answer questions and to enroll EMTs in the system. Wyoming is one of only three states that provide for a retirement system for their ambulance attendants. We encourage all eligible ambulance attendants to enroll in the system.

A reminder that the application deadline for fall EMT classes is July 15th. Applications should be sent to the EMS Office as soon as possible. In addition, the fall recertification testing schedule will be posted and sent out by the end of July. Recertification testing will be available at the EMS Office beginning August 1st. Individuals desiring to test at the EMS Office are reminded to call ahead to schedule a time to test. As a result of the past legislative session, the EMS Office will be changing the process for payment to ambulance services that conduct EMT classes. Previously the EMS Office would process the instructor payments for each individual instructor of a class. New legislation, which will increase the amount the EMS Office can reimburse an ambulance service for a class, requires that the reimbursement go to the ambulance service directly. Effective with the fall 2008 classes, the ambulance service sponsoring the EMT class will be responsible for payment to the individual class instructors. Additional information and instructions will be forthcoming from the EMS Office.



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The EMS Office has funding available to ambulance services to provide for initial training and continuing education for attendants. These funds, up to \$1,000 per ambulance service, are available upon application to the EMS Office. Application forms are enclosed with this mailing. Questions concerning these funds should be directed to the EMS Office.

Similarly the EMS Office has funds available for support and assistance to ambulance services for the presentation of educational conferences for EMS providers. Conferences must have prior approval from the EMS Office before funds are awarded. Grants up to \$10,000 may be applied for through the EMS Office. Applications are available from the EMS Office.

The 38th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference is rapidly approaching. To date, 225 EMS providers have preregistered for the conference. As of this mailing twenty-seven vendors and eight corporate sponsors have signed on to assist with the conference. Discounted registration fees of \$110.00 are available through July 31st. Registrations after July 31st will be \$125.00. Preconference classes are filling up with the Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) and the two Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers (PEPP) completely full. Renowned EMS cartoonist Steve Berry and EMS educator Paul Werfel will kick off the conference at Friday mornings General Sessions.

Trauma coordinators from the Casper region will be meeting on Friday morning. Contact Connie Jacobson at the Wyoming Medical Center for specific agenda and times. The Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care is scheduled to meet on Friday afternoon. Physicians with items for the Task Force should have them to the EMS Office as soon as possible.

The always popular 50-50 and rifle raffle along with a HD wide screen TV will be raffled off during the conference with the winners announced at the Saturday evening banquet. Highlights of the banquet will include an evening of musical comedy by Gordy Pratt, EMT Table of Honor Ceremony, and presentation of the Governor's Award for Physician Medical Director of the Year and the Medic of the Year Awards. Giveaways include numerous items of medical equipment and overnight stays at the following:

- Bear Lodge Resort 2 nights accommodations for two;
- Ladder Ranch near Encampment 2 packages of two days accommodations/fishing for two;
- Two (2) weekend packages at the Holiday Inn/Hot Springs in Thermopolis; and
- 2 nights and a dinner for two at the Hilton Gardens and Conference Center in Laramie.

A limited number of discounted rooms at the Little America Hotel and Resort remain. Contact the Little America Hotel and Resort directly at: 1-307-775-8400 and mention you are attending the Wyoming Trauma Conference. Cheyenne Fire and Rescue will present an evening of food and entertainment at the Depot Square in downtown Cheyenne on Friday evening. WAEMSA and WAPP will conduct their annual membership meetings during the conference. Specific times and locations will be posted at the conference.



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The EMS Rules and Regulations are undergoing revision and will be out for public comment shortly. Several significant changes will occur as a result of comments received by the EMS Office, medical advancements, legal actions, and actions taken by recent legislative initiatives. The continuing education requirement for the accumulation of specific points will be dropped in favor of going to an hourly requirement. There will be an increase, from the current forty (40) hours to fifty-five (55) in the total number of hours required for recertification for EMT-Basics

As a sign of the times, the EMS Office will be instituting completion of FBI and Wyoming DCI criminal background checks as part of the certification process for all EMTs. Individuals refusing to submit a completed background check will not be eligible for certification. The EMS Office has recently received applications for certification or training from individuals that have previous felony convictions and were not screened by the class coordinator or the ambulance employer. All class coordinators and ambulance administrators are reminded that those who have felony convictions are not eligible for certification or to enroll in EMT classes. Questions on the eligibility of individuals for certification should be directed to the EMS staff.

The EMS Office continues to receive questions on changes that have occurred at various ambulance services across the state. The following has occurred recently:

- 1. Doug Schmitz, MD has assumed the position of physician medical director for Sheridan Fire/Rescue and the Centennial Volunteer FD/EMS. Dr. Schmitz currently serves as the State's EMS physician advisor and provides temporary coverage as an ambulance services' medical director when there are vacancies within a community.
- 2. Carbon County is in the process of forming a Joint Powers Board that will oversee ambulance organization and functioning for the areas of Hanna, Medicine Bow, and Elk Mountain. This area has seen limited ambulance service for the past several years.
- 3. Thomas Hoskins, MD has assumed the position of physician medical director for the Lusk/Niobrara Ambulance Service. He replaces Murray Young, MD.
- 4. Salt Creek Emergency Services has a new email address: sces@rtconnect.net.
- 5. Great-West Ambulance Service, the non-emergent transfer ambulance service has moved their headquarters from Casper to Lander.
- 6. Ambulance services in Sweetwater County have received notification that their funding from the county will be reduced or phased out in 2009.

The EMS Office will be presenting the Physician Medical Director's course at the 38th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference on Saturday, August 23rd. Physicians attending the course are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Don Woods, MD from the Utah EMS Bureau will present the course along with Dr. Schmitz and Bob Dean from the EMS Office. Stipends are available to physicians who attend the class. Registration forms have been sent to physicians and are available from the EMS Office.



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Thanks to all of the ambulance services who participated in the Statewide Pandemic Influenza Response Exercise "S.P.I.R.E.", which was held the week of June 23rd. While the final number of participants is not added up as of yet – a good time was had by all! Those ambulance services who participated in the exercise are eligible for the \$2,500.00 provided by the Hospital Preparedness Program. If you have questions regarding the \$2,500.00 or want to ensure you are on the list to receive the \$2,500.00, please contact Merit Thomas (307) 777-6904 or merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov.

As a result of reviewing multiple applications from individuals who have completed Paramedic training programs that do not meet the standards set forth in the Department of Transportation's National Standard Curriculum or whose program are not accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, the Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care and the Board of Medicine have recommended the EMS Office, in their rule revisions, adopt the following certification policy:

Wyoming Certification Application process:

All Paramedic Applicants for Wyoming Certification must have completed a Paramedic Program that was CAAHEP accredited at the time of program completion or have completed an in-state Division approved program. Paramedic Applicants that have not completed a CAAHEP program or an in-state Division approved program will not be accepted for processing.

The Certification process for Wyoming (formerly Reciprocity) with exception, does not include the National Registry as in the past. The exception for this is military trained EMT's who do not possess a valid state certification. In this case a valid National Registry Card must be submitted along with the rest of the required information.

All out-state-applicants seeking Wyoming Certification will need to complete the Certification Application in its entirety. The detailed requirements for Certification are posted on the Wyoming OEMS website at: http://health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/certification.html . The Certification Application itself is not on-line. It is available to an applicant upon request by contacting the Wyoming OEMS at 307-777-7955.

A completed Certification Application must be submitted to the Wyoming OEMS for review and validation prior to any testing. All testing will be by appointment with the Wyoming OEMS. A Senior Trainer will schedule testing as available. The Certification examination is administered in Cheyenne at the OEMS. All Certification Applications that are not completed in their entirety will be returned to the applicant. Acceptance of an EMT Basic, Intermediate, or Paramedic position in Wyoming does not constitute a certification or validation to work.

All information must be verifiable otherwise the application will be denied.



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Submission of a completed Certification Application does not grant permission to take the Wyoming Certification test or to work as an EMT at any level in Wyoming. While every effort will be made to expedite an applications validation, inability to verify application information will create delays for Certification processing.