

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: September 2, 2008

Subject: Office Updates

The 38th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference was held last weekend with over 450 people attending the banquet and conference. The EMS Office would like to thank Cheyenne Fire/Rescue and the State Fire Marshal's Office for their assistance with the conference. Over 40 vendors and sponsors supported this year's conference. Secretary of State Max Maxfield and Brent D. Sherard, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer presented the Governor's Award for EMS Physician Medical Director of the Year to Thomas Told, DO from Baggs, Pete Vase Medic of the Year to Paul Williams from Gillette, EMS Meritorious Service Awards to Senator Pat Aullman, Mike Bruno, MD, Mike Newell – Johnson County Ambulance Service in Buffalo, and Secretary of State Max Maxfield, Bystanders of the Year to Kaylee Hartley and Courtney Waggener of Newcastle, and EMS Class Coordinators of the Year Awards to Dennis Bohne of Wright and Roger Hespe of Newcastle.

The EMS Office is pleased to welcome Sue Wilson, RN as the new Trauma Program Coordinator. Sue comes to the EMS Office from Kimball, Nebraska where she served as the hospital's Trauma Coordinator. Sue has a wealth of rural/frontier trauma experience and has worked in Rock Springs and Worland. Sue will start her position in the EMS Office on September 2nd.

EMT class coordinators and ambulance services that are hosting EMT classes for the next two years are reminded that ambulance services conducting EMT classes will be responsible for distributing class payment for instructors to the individual instructors. As a result of legislation that was passed this spring funds for compensation for instructor payment have been increased based upon the need in a given area and the geographic location of the ambulance service conducting the training. Previously the EMS Office processed the individual instructor payment forms however beginning with this fall cycle of EMT classes, ambulance services will be responsible for the disbursement of payment to its instructors.

Over 900 enrollment forms for the Volunteer EMT Pension Fund have been mailed to ambulance services and ambulance attendants. Attendants are encouraged to sign up for the pension fund as quickly as possible. Application and information forms about the Volunteer EMT Pension Fund have been sent to each ambulance service. The Volunteer EMT Pension Fund Board has been established. The following are the current Board members:

- Kristine Bacheller – Pinedale
- Arlo Niederer – Jackson
- Gard Ferguson – Worland
- Thomas Williams – WRS Director
- Roy Barber – Baggs
- RaDawn Ruud – Afton
- Sally Waugh – Hulett

Information on the Volunteer EMT Pension Fund can be obtained by contacting the Wyoming Retirement System or the EMS Office.

Applications for stipends to ambulance services to assist in the presentation of training for their personnel were sent to each ambulance service. Ambulance services can apply for up to \$1000 each year for the next two years. The funds may be used to offset the cost of sending personnel to conferences, conducting training sessions locally, or obtaining training equipment for their personnel.

Funding is also available for ambulance services who desire to conduct a conference in their area. Ambulance services may apply for up to \$10,000 to assist in the costs of presenting a conference that meets the criteria established by the EMS Office. Applications have been sent to each ambulance service.

The draft contract for the ambulance service physician medical director stipends has been sent to the Attorney General's Office for review. Once approved, the contracts will be sent to individual physician medical directors of ambulance services for their signature. The EMS Office will provide stipends of \$500/month for the next two years as part of recently passed legislation that is designed to encourage physicians to stay involved with their local ambulance service.

The EMS Office has received approval to proceed with an RFI for the replacement of the current WATRS and Cales' Trauma Registry. Funding for this multi-million dollar project will come from the Hospital Preparedness Program's Grant and will see the acquisition of a web based software package that will integrate the EMS trip report and the trauma registry. Computers and training will be made available to all ambulance services and facilities in the trauma system. It is estimated that this project will take 3-5 years to complete but will enable the EMS Office to be NEMESIS and National Trauma Data Bank compliant.

EMTs that are due to recertify this fall are reminded that all recertification materials must be submitted to the EMS Office by the first of December in order to insure that renewed cards will be processed before an individual's current card expires at the end of December. The testing schedule has been sent



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Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

to all who are scheduled to recertify this fall as well as all ambulance services. In addition the testing schedule is posted on the EMS website. Individuals desiring to test at the EMS Office need to call ahead and schedule a time with the EMS staff.

Ambulance services are reminded that business licenses are due to be renewed annually. Business license renewal forms will be sent out from the EMS Office in late September. Ambulance services are reminded that if you bill Medicare/Medicaid for your services you must maintain a state ambulance business license in order to receive reimbursement from CMS. In addition, for ambulance services that currently do not maintain a business license if you wish to have your attendants eligible for participation in the Volunteer EMT Pension Fund, you must maintain a current business license. Forms are available from the EMS Office. Out of state ambulance services that enter Wyoming and pick up patients to be transported from a Wyoming facility must also obtain an ambulance business license.

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