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

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: October 20, 2008

Subject: Office Updates

Fall brings snow and the beginning of the annual EMT recertification process. Individuals are reminded to submit their recertification materials by December 1st to insure their paperwork is processed before their certification expires at the end of December. For those needing to take the recertification examination testing is being conducted around the state through November 6th. Testing is also available at the EMS Office. Those desiring to test at the EMS Office are reminded to call the office ahead of time to schedule a time for the testing.

Ambulance service business licenses are due for renewal. Renewal forms have been sent to all ambulance services. If you have not received a renewal application contact Beth at the EMS Office. A reminder that **ambulance services must also have a current business license in order for their personnel to be eligible for participation in the Volunteer EMT Retirement Fund.**

Ambulance services are reminded of the need to register their ambulance service with the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) in order for their personnel to be eligible to sign up for the Volunteer EMT Pension Fund. Forms have been sent out to each ambulance service and should be completed and returned to the WRS as soon as possible. **Individuals cannot be included in the system unless their ambulance service is registered with the WRS.** The Volunteer EMT Retirement Board held their first meeting and will be working to have several amendments made to the statute for the upcoming legislative session. For further information contact a member of the Retirement Board.

Planning for the 39th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference has begun. Due to the success of this past year, the conference for 2009 will again be held at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne on August 20th – 23rd. Suggestions for speakers or topics are welcome. Merit Thomas and Beth Hollingworth will be coordinating the conference planning this year.

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Ambulance services are reminded of the availability of funds to assist them in offsetting the cost of sending personnel to training/conferences. The 2008 Legislature provided funding for training stipends to ambulance services. To date, ten of the state's seventy-four ambulance services have submitted applications for these funds. Services receiving funds include: Lingle FD/EMS, Dayton Rescue, Osage Vol. FD/EMS, Campbell County Memorial Hospital EMS, Glendo Vol. Ambulance Service, Mortimore's Ambulance, Newcastle Ambulance, Evansville Ambulance Service, Memorial Hospital of Converse County EMS, and Vase EMS. Up to \$1,000.00 is available to each ambulance service. Application forms are available through the EMS Office. Funds to support local EMS conferences are also available through the EMS Office. Up to \$10,000.00 is available to support conferences. Questions concerning any of these funding opportunities or to obtain applications contact the EMS Office.

Contracts for physician medical director stipends have been sent to each medical director. Dr. Schmitz will be setting up conference calls for physicians to discuss current EMS related issues that affect our EMS providers. The second medical director's training program will be scheduled for the spring of 2009.

Ambulance administrators are reminded that business licenses and ambulance permits are not transferrable. Any changes in the ownership or the transfer of vehicles will require new business license applications and permit applications. Administrators are also reminded that an MS# is required for all ambulance vehicles. MS#s are assigned by the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) and are not to be randomly placed on an ambulance by the ambulance service. MS#s are for ambulances only and not supervisor vehicles. MS#s may be transferred from one vehicle to another when a new vehicle is replacing one that is currently in service. Questions on the use of MS#s should be directed to the EMS Office or to the WHA.

Recent events indicate that long time ambulance service Vase EMS in Rock Springs may be sold. Also the local contract for the provision of EMS in Cheyenne is out to bid.

Merit Thomas's Hospital Preparedness Grant Program is conducting a "Respirator Protection Survey" in conjunction with the WDH Epidemiology Program. The results of this survey will help us in determining what respirator protection needs ambulances have and from there we can proceed with planning. The link to the survey, which is on the EMS web/site is: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/hospprepare.html>. If you have any questions regarding the survey – please contact Merit Thomas, 777-6904 or merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov.

Jay Ostby has several used computers, flat panel monitors, printers and a couple of fax machines that are available for permanent loan to ambulance services. If your services' computer is in need of an upgrade contact Jay for further assistance. EMS providers are reminded to have their data current in order to be eligible for the computers or associated equipment.

401 Hathaway Building • Cheyenne WY 82002

E-Mail: wdh@health.wyo.gov • WEB Page: www.health.wyo.gov

Toll Free 1-866-571-0944 • Main Number (307) 777-7656 • FAX (307) 777-7439



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Jay Ostby and Jim Mayberry are working on RFI for the ambulance trip report and Trauma Registry software project that will result in a web based reporting system, upgraded computers for hospital trauma registry use, and “rugged” laptops for ambulance services. Funding for this project is being provided by the Hospital Preparedness Grant and the Highway Safety Program. Several ambulance services are currently testing the “rugged” laptops. For further information contact Jay at the EMS Office.

Sue Wilson, RN, Trauma Coordinator will be sending out the revised uncompensated trauma care reimbursement forms to ambulance services and hospitals. The 2008 Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million dollars to be made available to hospitals and ambulance services for assistance in the recovery of their uncompensated trauma care costs. \$625,000 will be available in each quarter with no hospital or ambulance service being able to receive more than 25% of the quarterly allotment. Ambulance services will have to contact their local hospital to obtain the individual patient’s trauma registry numbers. Patients must meet the eligibility requirements for entry into the hospital trauma registry. Questions concerning the reimbursement process or the forms should be directed to Sue Wilson at the EMS Office.