

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Services
Medical Directors
Governor's Appointed EMS Advisory Committee
Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care
Fire Chiefs
Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: March 6, 2007

Subject: Office Update

The recent legislative session has ended and two of five EMS related bills have been passed. Senate Enrolled Act No. 81 has been signed into law and provides for \$50,000.00 to the Wyoming Retirement System to conduct a study of the state's EMS system to provide options to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee for them to consider for the development of an EMS retirement bill for the next legislative session consideration. The Health Department's EMS Office will be responsible for providing the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee with recommendations on recruitment and retention of EMS providers. The second bill that was passed is Senate Enrolled Act No. 51 that provides for the ability of currently certified EMTs to obtain specialty license plates that identify them as an EMT. A copy of the proposed license plate is attached and also available on the EMS website. These license plates will be available beginning July 1, 2007. Both of these bills were sponsored by Senator Pat Aullman an EMT-Intermediate from Thayne. The three other EMS related bills died in various committees.

The Ambulance Administrators/Medical Directors Conference is scheduled for May 4-5, 2007 in Casper at the Holiday Inn on the River. This will provide those attending current information on medical legal issues for physicians and administrators. The conference will be preceded by a one day EMS data workshop. Administrators and physicians are encouraged to register as soon as possible. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn. Registration forms are included in this mailing as well as on the EMS website and available from the EMS Office.

Governor Dave Freudenthal has reappointed the current members of the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee through 2011. The members of this committee are: Jim Anderson, MD – Casper representing the American College of Surgeons, Dan Perdue, President of the Wyoming Hospital

Association, Rusty Palmer, representing a certified EMT, Karen Dutton, RN – representing nursing, Kirk Bollinger, MD – representing the Wyoming Family Practice physicians, Susie Pouliot, President of the Wyoming Medical Society, Gary Wilson representing an ambulance operator, and Ron McKee, MD representing ACEP.

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer was reappointed as the Director of the Wyoming Health Department. The EMS programs will continue to report directly to Dr. Sherard. Dr. Sherard's appointment is effective through 2011.

Members of the Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care for 2007 include: G. Douglas Schmitz, MD – surgeon from Torrington, Mark Schueler, MD – family practice physician from Buffalo, Duane Abels, DO – emergency room physician from Rawlins, Todd Beckstead, MD – surgeon from Casper, Richard Sugden, MD – family practice physician from Jackson, Sherilyn Webb, MD – emergency room physician from Casper, and Mike Bruno, MD – emergency room physician from Casper.

The EMS Office reminds all ambulance services to submit their EMS System Enhancement Awards applications by **Friday, March 16, 2007**. Applications postmarked after this date will be returned. Incomplete applications will also be returned. Maximum amount of awards is \$2,000.00. The awards will be presented at the Shock/Trauma Conference in Jackson on Friday, April 20, 2007.

Ambulance services are reminded that all ambulances must have an ambulance permit and if the ambulance service is authorized for EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic level of care a business license must also be maintained. A new ambulance service, Sweetwater Medics, has begun operations in Rock Springs. Former Vase EMS director, Larry Macy is the President and Ron Gatti, EMS Coordinator from Rock Springs Fire Department are part of the principle owners.

Contracts for speakers for the 37th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference have been signed. Kevin Fitzgerald, DVM, from the Comedy Works in Denver and television's Animal Planet will be the banquet speaker. An invitation has been extended to Governor Dave Freudenthal to present the Medic of the Year Award and the Physician's Medical Director of the Year Awards. Brent D. Sherard, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer and Senator John Barrasso, MD from Casper have accepted invitations to present opening remarks. Award criteria for the various awards presented at the conference will be sent to all ambulance services in the near future and may be found on the EMS website. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue has agreed to provide the Friday evening entertainment. Campbell County's Firehouse Four will provide the music for the banquet. Early registration is available and registration forms are on the EMS website and available from the EMS Office. With the exception of the cadaver lab the preconference classes are provided at no cost to those who sign up as part of their registration. Class sizes are limited. Early registration is encouraged to insure a spot in one of the classes. The Table of Honor Ceremony will be included as part of the banquet. A variety of EMS equipment will be available for giveaways along with the popular rifle raffle and weekend retreats. Sponsors that have

signed on for the conference to date include: Absolute Solutions, the Wyoming Hospital Association, the Wyoming Committee on Trauma, Wheeled Coach Corp., Mike James of L&R Gun Shop, Cheyenne Fire/Rescue, and AED Everywhere.

The EMS Rules and Regulations were last updated in 2003 and as is our desire to keep them current with medical advancements in the EMS field we will begin the process of gathering input and comment from providers on what to consider in revisions to the EMS Rules and Regulations. This revising process will start later this year. It is anticipated that we will be able to bring specific ideas to our AG representative and start the formal adoption process sometime in the fall of 2008 with a targeted adoption date in the spring of 2009.

The second year data on the Paramedic skills/medication usage is being tabulated and will be presented at the next Governor's EMS Advisory Committee and Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care meetings. Second year data will also be sent to the Paramedic ambulance service administrators and their medical directors.

Ambulance services are reminded that Medtronics and Physio-Control are under FDA review and are prevented from shipping defibrillators until this review process is complete. The process may take up to six months to complete.

The EMS Office has a number of automatic AEDs without screens remaining in their inventory. If you have an agency that needs an AED contact Bob Dean for information on the paperwork needed to obtain one of these AEDs. Agencies who desire to have their AEDs upgraded to the new CPR guidelines should contact the sales representative for the brand of AED that they use.