

## MEMORANDUM

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

From: EMS Office

Date: February 13, 2006

Subject: EMS Office Update

The EMS Office has received the final version of the new EMT registry. All recertification materials have been processed and mailed out. The staff will be conducting a run of the system to identify those who have not submitted recertification materials and notify them that they are no longer certified. Ambulance services and medical directors can expect to receive the annual report of those who are affiliated with their services or under their license within the next two to three weeks.

The legislature starts today and the EMS Office has learned that Senator Pat Aullman will be introducing a bill that would provide for tuition free post-secondary education for specified dependents of EMTs and peace officers who die in the line of duty. This is similar to legislation that was passed during the last session for firefighters. The EMS Office has not seen the final bill for introduction as it is in draft stage. Individuals interested in this legislation may contact Senator Aullman for further information.

The EMS staff, along with Kris Bacheller, Mellody Icenogle, Chris Icenogle, Rusty Palmer, Nancy Jo Illman, and Dave Simkins, are putting together the agenda and speakers for the 36<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Trauma Conference scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. Speakers contacted to date include: Dave Long, "The Airbag Detective," Mike Grill, Bill Justice, Mike Smith, and Paul Werfel. Ambulance services intending to submit names for the Pete Vase (EMT of the Year) and the Governor's Physician Medical Director of the Year awards are urged to do so

at their earliest convenience. For further information on these awards contact a member of the EMS staff. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue will be providing entertainment for Friday evening. Thursdays' pre-conference events include: Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) presented by the Western States Burn Team from Greeley, Colorado; EMS Team Building with Mike Grill from Sierra Vista Fire Department in Arizona; Trench Rescue presented by Cheyenne Fire/Rescue; NIMS/ICS for EMS responders and A.L.E.R.T. an air bag safety class by Dave Long, "The Airbag Detective." All of the pre-conference classes are provided at **no-cost** to the participants, however class sizes will be limited and require pre-registration. Arrangements are being made for Randolph Mantooth (Johnny Gage) from the old "Emergency" television series to be the featured speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening. Governor Freudenthal has been invited to present the Physician Medical Director of the Year Award. Brent Sherard, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer, Senator Pat Aullman (EMT-I from Afton), and Representative Tom Lubnau (EMT/Firefighter from Campbell County) have agreed to provide welcoming remarks each day of the conference. A copy of this years' conference registration form has been included with this update. Additional copies can be made from this or by contacting the EMS Office. The yearly Tourniquet Award(s) will be presented at the banquet. If you have members that are deserving of such please send them to Carol at the EMS Office.

Ambulance services have been sent application forms for this year's EMS System Enhancement Awards. This will be the seventh year that the EMS Office has received funding from the Office of Rural Health (ORH) to provide assistance to our ambulance services. However, this may be the last year of the availability of the flex funds as the entire Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant program has been targeted for elimination in the 2007 President's budget. Due to the reduction of this years' flex grant, the amount available to ambulance services for the EMS System Enhancement Awards has been reduced to \$50,000.00. There is a maximum of \$2,000.00 per award. The deadline for submission of the application is Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Jim Mayberry, Program Manager has been invited to present these awards at the Southeast Trauma Conference in Torrington on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The EMS Office's HRSA Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness grant will be sending vouchers, in the amount of \$1,500.00, to ambulance services to provide assistance for training expenses for their personnel. One of the guidelines for the grant is to assist local ambulance services in keeping their personnel trained. EMS is often the forgotten entity for funding in many communities. In order to assist in retaining qualified staff, the stipends are intended to help offset the training expenses each ambulance service faces yearly. The funds may be used to pay for any training related activities of the local ambulance service. Merit Thomas, the EMS Office's HRSA Bioterrorism Grant Coordinator was invited to Washington, DC to assist in the development of the next year's grant guidance. At this meeting, Merit was notified that Wyoming is one of only a handful of states to have allocated their funds and provided support for EMS programs. Wyoming ambulance's services and hospitals have benefited and improved their response capabilities as a result of this grant.



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

Governor Dave Freudenthal

The trauma program has seen a reduction in funding with the HRSA Trauma Grant program being eliminated at the end of this year's grant which ends August 31<sup>st</sup>. Funds (\$40,000) from this grant has enabled the EMS Office to provide for stipends for trauma nurses to attend the advisory committee and the state regional trauma meetings. With the potential elimination of the Office of Rural Health's flex grant there is a good possibility that the annual site license fees (\$25,000) for the hospital trauma registry will have to be re-evaluated as this grant has paid for each hospital's annual site license. The EMS Office is looking to obtain a new trauma registry that will enable them to link in the ambulance trip reporting, hopefully be web based, and to shorten the trauma registry reporting requirements for the smaller hospitals. The adoption of the revised Trauma Program's rules has been extended due to the need for the EMS Office to address comments that were submitted by United Medical Center and Wyoming Medical Center. The EMS Office's AG representative will review the comments and advise the EMS Office on whether the comment period needs to be started over. Hospitals may submit claims but they cannot be processed until the adoption process for the rules is completed. The position of Trauma Coordinator has been reclassified. The salary has been increased and the position is now listed as a nursing position. A copy of the position description is enclosed in this mailing. The posting of the vacancy is on the state's website and will be sent to all trauma nurse coordinators this week. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

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