

MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2005

35th Annual Trauma Conference & EMS Office Update

The Trauma Conference is fast approaching. Reminder that registration is through the EMS Office. Any questions concerning the conference should be directed to the EMS Office as well. Enclosed find an updated schedule of events.

Several preconference courses are available including the National Registry of EMTs request to conduct a "stakeholders" meeting of interested EMS personnel to discuss the National Registry's move to computer adaptive testing (CAT) in 2007. There is no cost to attend the "stakeholders" meeting. We encourage anyone with questions or concerns about CAT to attend this meeting. The EMS staff will be making a decision later this fall whether to abandon the National Registry as a testing body for our EMT-Basic examination or to pursue using the CAT process whereby students would definitely have to travel to a testing site for their final written examinations.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, nationally know star of the television show, Animal Planet's "Emergency Vets" will be the keynote speaker for the annual banquet on Saturday evening. In addition to his veterinary skills, Dr. Fitzgerald is a regular at the famed Comedy Works in Denver. State Auditor Max Maxfield is attempting to clear his schedule to make his annual appearance at the banquet to present the Governor's Physician Medical Director of the Year Award and the Pete Vase Award. Rusty Palmer, Deputy Chief Administration/Prevention for Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, long-time EMT, and a member of the Governor's EMS Advisory Committee will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the banquet.

Friday evening, the Cheyenne Fire/Rescue will be hosting a reception for all conference attendees at the Depot Square in downtown Cheyenne. Finger foods and beverages will be available. Transportation will be provided from the Holiday Inn to the Depot Square. Additional details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

Steve Ott, Ph.D. and Coleen King, Senior Trainer, will be offering the Instructor Coordinator Development Course for those interested in coordinating EMT classes. This is a prerequisite for anyone desiring to coordinate an EMT class in the state. The class is limited in space availability and fills up rapidly. Contact Coleen at the EMS Office for registration and space availability.

Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) will be offered through WAEMSA. This course will require a separate registration of \$75.00 paid to WAEMSA. Registration for this class must be into WAEMSA by August 1st. Class space is limited.

Representatives from the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) will conduct an EMS Wilderness Class on Thursday. Todd Schimelpfenig, NOLS instructor and long-time Wyoming EMT will be an instructor. There is no fee for this course.

The EMS Office has received several donations for giveaways during the conference. Items included are: 27 Inch Television/DVD/VCR combination to be given to an ambulance service, fire service, or first responder group for training purposes, a digital camera, a hard case medical response kit with basic supplies, a weekend at the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne, and a weekend at the Super 8 in Thermopolis. Teel Gun Works in Wheatland has provided a Ruger Model 77 to be raffled off with proceeds going to the expenses of the Trauma Conference.

During the week of the trauma conference the EMS Office will be closed from Wednesday through Friday as preparations for the move of the Health Department Administration from the first floor to the fourth floor will require repainting and carpeting of the existing EMS Offices. Other changes being instituted for the Hathaway Building will include increased security and visitor check in prior to entry into specific areas of the building. It is anticipated that this project will continue until the Supreme Court is moved over to the Hathaway Building around the end of the year.

Recertification test schedules for the fall are being finalized. A listing of the test sites and times will be sent to all ambulance services and fire services by the end of July. The testing format remains the same as in the past. The test schedule will be posted on the EMS website.

Ambulance services desiring to conduct EMT-Basic and EMT-Intermediate classes need to have their requests into the EMS Office as the trainers are beginning to schedule the fall cycle of EMT classes. Class information and contact information will be posted on the website in early August.

Due to the resignation of Maggie Cleveland, RN, the Trauma Program's activities have slowed until a new coordinator can be hired. Presently there are two openings in the trauma program. Information on each of these can be found on the EMS web page as well as the State's website. Progress continues on the development of draft rules for the reimbursement to hospitals legislation that was passed during the last legislative session. It is hoped that these can be in place before the end of the year. The two regional trauma centers in Casper and Cheyenne will be conducting Regional Advisory Committee meetings. Information will be forthcoming on the dates, times and locations. Federal funding to states for trauma system development appears to be in serious jeopardy as the House has eliminated the program in next years budget request. This would result in a loss of \$40,000 to the state's Trauma Program if not reinstated by the

Senate.

The new EMT registry is in the final design and construction phases. The EMS Office is scheduled to switch over to this system by the end of October. As a result anyone recertifying this fall will receive new EMT cards. The new cards will be on display at the Trauma Conference in Cheyenne. The new cards will be plastic and the size of the typical credit card. Information that is present on the current cards will be on the new cards as well. This is the first updating of the EMS Office's EMT registry software since 1996.

Casper College and Laramie County Community College have received permission to establish Paramedic training programs. Additional information on these programs will be sent out as they programs are developed. Present plans are that Casper College will offer an Associate's Degree (2 yr.) Program and Laramie County Community College a certificate program (1 yr.) Along the same line twelve Wyoming EMTs are currently enrolled in the pilot Paramedic distance learning program being conducted through Weber State University. This program is scheduled to run for 18 months and will finish next spring. Students from all of these programs will be required to obtain the majority of their clinical and ambulance ride times with out-of-state hospitals and ambulance services.

The EMS Office is scheduled to provide first aid coverage at the State Fair in Douglas from August 13th through August 20th. If you or anyone on your service is interested in assisting the EMS Office with this event contact Coleen at the EMS Office. Coverage at the first aid station is from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily. The first aid station will generally see about 100-125 patients during the week.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 35th Annual Trauma Conference.