

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: February 5, 2008

Subject: Office Updates

The upcoming legislative session, scheduled to start on February 11th, will see an attempt to introduce an EMT Retirement Bill that would provide an incentive for EMTs to remain with their local ambulance services. While the proposed legislation will be similar to that currently being offered to volunteer firemen, the proposed EMT bill would be set up separately from the volunteer fireman's retirement fund. Both ambulance organizations are actively seeking your input and support for the bill. For additional information contact representatives from either WAEMSA or WAPP.

Other legislation that would impact EMS providers include: a bill that would provide education benefits to dependents of EMS and firefighters who are disabled in the line of duty; a trauma bill that would provide reimbursement for uncompensated care to hospitals and ambulance services; a bill that would provide immunity from liability for health care providers at a declared health emergency, and a bill that would provide temporary certification for inactive health care professionals during a declared health emergency. For additional information on these bills contact representatives from either WAEMSA or WAPP.

The EMS Office's request for an exception budget request has been denied by the Governor. The Joint Appropriations Committee similarly eliminated the exception request along with the Governors' request for an assessment of the statewide EMS system.

Jackson Hole Fire/EMS has five EMT-Intermediates complete Weber State University's 18-month distance learning Paramedic program. Wyoming students have typically finished in the top of the classes offered by Weber State University and this class was no exception. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS began staffing their ambulances with these new Paramedics on February 1st.

Star Valley Medical Center in Afton will be assuming responsibility for the ambulance service in Afton effective March 3, 2008. For over thirty years the all volunteer Star Valley EMTs have functioned independently. Allen Carter, MD will remain as the physician medical director for the ambulance service. Star Valley Medical Center intends to hire a full time EMS director for the ambulance service.

The 38th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference is beginning to take shape. The conference will be held August 21-24, 2008 at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. Speaker contracts are being sent to Steve Berry, Paul Werfel, Chief Norm Rooker, and Greg Grisberg. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue will once again be providing the entertainment for Friday evening. The Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Staff will be scheduling a fire service continuing education track. Early registration forms with discounted fees will be sent out in early February to all ambulance services and fire services.

The Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care met January 18th. The Task Force spent the better part of an afternoon reviewing the current authorized medications for EMT-Intermediates and Paramedics. Preliminary data from Year 3 of the Paramedic medication/skill usage was reviewed. It will be recommended to the Board of Medicine that Fentanyl be authorized for EMT-Intermediates as a voice order only medication. A list of the revisions to the current list of authorized medications is enclosed with this mailing.

The EMS Office reminds ambulance supervisors that individuals coming from out of state need to have their applications **reviewed and approved prior** to any testing being conducted by the EMS Office. Testing will be conducted at the EMS Office in Cheyenne unless arrangements are made with one of the EMS Office trainers to test the individual when the trainer is in the area conducting EMT final examinations. Individuals who show up with their paperwork in hand and expecting to test will not be permitted to do so until the staff has reviewed and approved their credentials.

Ambulance services are reminded that reimbursement for the annual fee to join the Western EMS Network is still available through the EMS Office. Approximately a dozen ambulance services have taken advantage of this to date. The Western EMS Network is a cooperative that enables EMS providers to receive discounted prices on a variety of medical supplies. For further information contact the EMS Office.

Several EMS conferences will be upcoming. These conferences provide EMS personnel with the opportunity to obtain valuable continuing medical education. EMS University is scheduled for April 9-12, 2008 at the CamPlex in Gillette. Contact Gregg Mentzel at the EMS base in Gillette for further information. The 28th Annual Shock Trauma Conference will be held in Jackson on April 18-20, 2009. Contact Jackson Hole Fire/EMS for information. In reviewing the fees that are charged for EMS conferences in Wyoming and our surrounding states we have found that our in-state conferences offer the same quality of education and often similar nationally known speakers at rates below similar conferences in adjacent states.



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