

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 EMS Advisory Committee Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care

Fire Chiefs

Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: April 1, 2008

Subject: Office Updates

The recent legislative session saw the establishment of an EMT Retirement Fund. Senator Pat Aullman, Representative Jeb Steward, Representative Tom Lubnau, and Representative Sue Wallis (all current or former EMTs) were responsible for seeing the bill through the legislative process. The EMS Office would like to extend a sincere thank you to those who attended the session, spoke in support of this long overdue incentive, or contacted their legislators to support this bill for ambulance services. The list includes but is not limited to the following: Anne Beckle, Dave Simpkins, Chief Guy Cameron, Paula Fagnant, LaVonne McNabb, Jon Said, Lauri Wempen, Wil Gay, George Pechulis, Dan Oakley, Pine Bluffs EMS, WAEMSA, WAPP, and members of the Wyoming Fire Chief Association.

Neither the EMT Retirement bill or the Trauma Care Services bill, both of which have general fund appropriations tied to them, will take effect before July 1, 2008. The EMS Office will have to revise the EMS Rules and Regulations and the Trauma program rules in order to comply with the language in these bills. The Wyoming Retirement System will administer and oversee the EMT Retirement bill. Funds appropriated for the recruitment and retention incentives to the Health Department's EMS Office will not be available until after the EMS Office has the EMS Rules and Regulations revised. This will be after July 1, 2008. Funds for the reimbursement to hospitals and ambulance services for uncompensated trauma care likewise will not be available until after July 1, 2008. Specifics on the process for obtaining reimbursements will be forthcoming. Questions concerning these should be directed to the EMS Office.

Spring brings several quality in state conferences. EMS University in Gillette is scheduled for April  $9\text{th}-12^{\text{th}}$  and the  $28^{\text{th}}$  Shock Trauma Conference in Jackson is scheduled for April  $18^{\text{th}}-20^{\text{th}}$ . The Northern Big Horn Mountain Trauma Conference is scheduled for June  $6^{\text{th}}-8^{\text{th}}$ . Additional information is available through the EMS website.



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A discounted early registration for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference is available by contacting the EMS Office or by downloading the application on the EMS website. A block of rooms have been reserved at Little America. When making reservations, you will need to mention that you are attending the Wyoming Trauma Conference. Room rates range from \$96 - \$116. Thanks to the remodeling of the Little America Hotel and Resort, the EMS Office will be offering seven preconference classes. Space in each is limited and is available on a first-come basis. Individuals attending one of the preconference classes must register for the conference. Speakers under contract include: Steve Berry, Paul Werfel, Norm Rooker, and Gregg Risberg. Governor Freudenthal has been invited. Rusty Palmer, Chief for Jackson Hole Fire/EMS will serve as MC for Saturday evenings' banquet. Raffles this year will include the popular rifle raffle and the chance for a wide-screen high definition TV. Giveaways will include a Dell Laser Printer/Copier/Fax machine and a variety of medical equipment. Both ambulance organizations will be conducting their annual meetings with WAEMSA meeting Thursday evening and WAPP on Friday evening. Cheyenne Fire/Rescue will again provide the Friday evening entertainment.

The EMS Office's Hospital Preparedness Program is offering ambulance services \$2,500 to offset their costs associated with their participation in the Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Programs' statewide pandemic influenza exercise scheduled for June 24-26, 2008. To register your ambulance service or for more information on the exercise contact Merit Thomas at the EMS Office. You may also visit: <a href="http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/hazards/exercise.html">http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/hazards/exercise.html</a>.

The EMS Office is pleased to make available a limited quantity of very nice used printers for distribution to ambulance services and trauma coordinators. Interested agencies should contact Jay Ostby at the EMS Office.

The law firm of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth have published information that the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed a rule change, which would, if adopted, permit states to amend their Medicaid plans and would **eliminate** the non-emergency medical transportation of individuals as a covered Medicaid benefit. With Wyoming's aging population, this loss of revenue could be devastating for ambulance services that transport Medicaid patients. For further information visit the Page, Wolfberg & Wirth website at: info@pwwemslaw.com .

The EMS Office has received notification that their EMSC grant has been renewed. This is the second of a three year partnership grant. The grant funds activities associated with pediatric prehospital issues. Contact Carol Zorna at the EMS Office for further informationn.

Tracey Jones, RN, Trauma Program Coordinator has resigned her position and will be leaving the EMS Office. Her last day with the Trauma Program will be March 31<sup>st</sup>. The EMS staff wish Tracey the best in her future endeavors. The EMS Office will be requesting permission to fill this position as soon as



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possible. Interested individuals should contact Doug Schmitz, MD, medical director for the Trauma Program at the EMS Office.

The EMS Office reminds all ambulance services and fire services that beginning **April 1, 2008**, the EMS Office will no longer accept outdated ambulance attendant applications. Newly revised forms were sent to all ambulance services within the past month. Additional copies are available at no cost throught the EMS Office. Faxed copies are no longer accepted. Submission of the outdated forms will be returned to the ambulance service or the fire service.

Spring EMS classes will begin to finish shortly. Class coordinators are reminded that all class paperwork must be turned into the EMS Trainer the night of the final examination. Incomplete paperwork will not be accepted. June 30, 2008 marks the end of the Health Department's fiscal year. Reimbursement forms need to be processed before the end of June to be included in this years' biennium. Coordinators are encouraged to remind instructors to not delay in sending in their payment vouchers.

After extensive review and comment the EMS Office will be revising the current EMT-Intermediate program. Instead of offering five separate modules, the program will be condensed into three modules. The modules will include: IV/Airway; Medical Emergencies; and Basic Cardiology with Manual Defibrillation. It is anticipated that the EMS Office will switch to this format by the start of spring classes in 2009. For further information contact Bob Dean at the EMS Office

Much talk has been heard in regards to the curriculum changes being proposed to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA). While there is a movement to eliminate the EMT-Intermediate level and institute an Advanced EMT level the adoption of such curricululms will be left of the individual states. Wyoming currently has no plans to adopt these recommendations as over 90% of our 74 ambulance services maintain an EMT-Intermediate level of care. The proposed Advanced EMT does not incorporate many of the skills and medications that are presently available to Wyoming EMT-Intermediates.