

MEMORANDUM

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

From: EMS Office

Date: December 15, 2008

Subject: Office Update

The holidays are upon us and the EMS staff is busy processing recertification paperwork. Individuals whose recertification materials were postmarked by December 1st will have their new certification cards before the end of the month. Individuals who have not submitted or were late in submitting their recertification materials are reminded that you must possess a current EMT certification to enable one to function as an EMT.

The Governor has signed both the EMS and the Trauma rules revisions. Effective beginning January 1, 2009 all individuals applying for certification will be required to complete a DCI and an FBI criminal background check with fingerprinting in order to be able to be certified. Cost of the background checks will be the individual applicants' responsibility. Specific guidelines and forms will be sent to ambulance services shortly. Additional information on the EMS revisions will be sent to individual ambulance services within the next several weeks.

Trauma Coordinators and ambulance services are reminded that claims for the first quarter of uncompensated trauma care funds are currently being accepted. Claim forms and questions can be directed to Sue Wilson, RN, Trauma Program Coordinator. Six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is available in this quarter.

The legislative session is around the corner. The EMS Office is aware of two potential bills that would impact the EMS services around the state. Ambulance services and individual EMTs are encouraged to contact either of the two ambulance associations for more information.

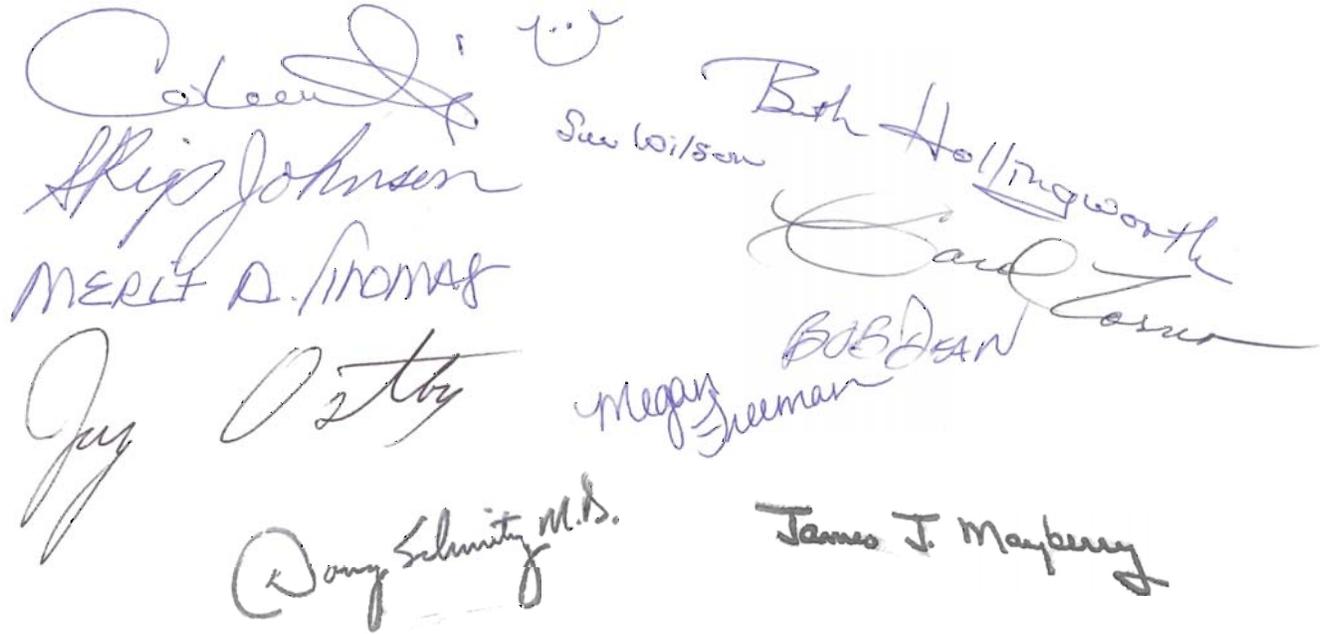
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Fall EMT classes are finishing and class coordinators are reminded of the new format for reimbursement for instructors of EMT classes. In the past, the EMS Office provided the reimbursement to the individual instructors. Beginning this past fall and continuing for the next two years. Legislation was passed that increased the amount of funding to EMT classes however the reimbursement for the individual class instructors will be the responsibility of the agency conducting the class. A specific amount will be sent to each sponsoring agency with the actual payment to instructors being left to the local agency. Any questions concerning this should be directed to the EMS trainer assigned to the class.

Merit Thomas, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator reminds all ambulance services to complete the PPE survey on N95 masks as soon as possible. Questions on the survey should be directed to Merit at the EMS Office. Merit is working on funding to ambulance services for pandemic flu preparations and PPE equipment in the coming months.

The EMS staff wishes each and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


 A collection of handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signatures include:

- Coleen [unclear]
- Ship Johnson
- MERIT D. THOMAS
- Jay [unclear]
- Donny Schmitz M.D.
- See Wilson
- Beth Hollingworth
- Carol [unclear]
- BOB DAN [unclear]
- Megan Freeman
- James J. Mayberry



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holiday Hazards

The holiday season is a time for celebration and happiness. However, the combination of excited children and hurried parents may turn a safe home into a likely site for a poisoning. Research shows that the number of poisoning incidents involving children rises during the holiday season. Common calls to the poison center during the holiday season include cigarettes, disc batteries, food poisoning, holiday plants and ingestion of guests' medications by young children. Wyoming's Poison Center offers the following tips for preparing your home during the holiday season:

- Use caution when using bubble lights, angel hair, snow sprays, and fireplace color crystals.
- Keep hazardous plants, decorations, medications and gifts out of the reach of small children or pets.
- Clean up immediately following all holiday parties so that alcohol and other potentially harmful items are not within reach of young children. Children often imitate adults and they will drink partially filled glasses regardless of the contents.
- Keep safety in mind when shopping for toys. Check age recommendations for toys and refer to the Consumer Product Safety Commission for toys on the recalled- toys list. (www.cpsc.gov)
- Be cautious of toys purchased at dollar stores, street fairs, vending machines, thrift stores or yard sales.



NEWS RELEASE

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- Beware of toys containing small magnets, cheap metal jewelry and any toy that can be broken into small pieces and cause a choking hazard.
- Certain Christmas tree light cords contain warnings of lead toxicity on them. Older artificial Christmas trees may contain small amounts of lead. It is reasonable to wash your hands after handling these cords and trees and keep them out of the hands of children.
- Post the telephone number of the Poison Center and your family physician near the phone.
- If you suspect a poisoning has occurred, call the Poison Center or your physician before attempting any emergency treatment.

Remember, prevention is the best treatment for poisonings. The Poison Center offers tips on holiday safety and poison prevention as a free community service. If you have questions or would like to set up an interview, contact the Poison Center by calling (800) 222-1222.

The Poison Center is sponsored by The Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the Wyoming Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services.