Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer   **Governor Dave Freudenthal**

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Service Administrators

From: EMS Office

Subject: Certification Process Clarification

Date: February 9, 2009

The EMS Office has seen a recent influx of requests for "immediate, we need them on the roster now, or ASAP" certifications for individuals. In the past, we have made every attempt to process certifications as reasonably as possible with the majority of applicants being certified within a 2-3 week period. With the implementation of the revised EMS Rules and Regulations this past December and the additional requirement for background checks for all EMTs has resulted in the processing of individual applications increasing significantly. No more can the EMS Office "fast track" or "expedite" certifications.

The criminal background check guidelines are established by the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) not the EMS Office. We must adhere to their procedures. Depending on their caseloads this process alone may take from 4-6 weeks to process an application. Incomplete applications will be rejected resulting in further delays. Previous background checks are not acceptable. The EMS Office must be identified as the agency on each background check application to receive the DCI reports.

Individuals being employed by an ambulance service and coming from out of state will have to have their EMS training and continuing medical education history verified and criminal background check completed before any testing is permitted. Certification in another state does not mean automatic certification in Wyoming.

Individuals from other professions such as nursing, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, etc. are not permitted to "challenge" EMS certification. There is no challenge process for EMT certification in Wyoming. Individuals applying for EMT certification must have EMT training. A 2-3 week "bridge" curriculum does not constitute acceptable EMT, EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic training.