

# BUREAU OF EMS: VITALS

Florida Department of Health

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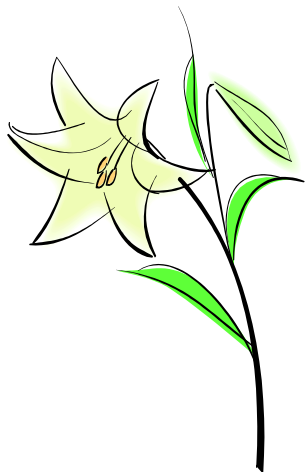
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## Keeping “TRAK” of Those at Risk *A PIER Spotlight Article* by Sandra Nasca

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has implemented a SAFE TRAK Program that will assist caregivers in locating family members, of any age, who have a diagnosis that may cause wandering.

The SAFE TRAK Program was developed in conjunction with the S.A.F.E. (Sheriffs Ambassadors For the Elderly) Program that Sheriff David Shoar established as a response to an increasing need for security and safety from scams and other dangers found in the elderly population; as well as children who, because of certain disabilities, do not have the ability to realize danger when they wander.

Using radio frequency tracking devices the SAFE TRAK Program can assist in locating senior citizens with Alzheimers/dementia, a brain injury, stroke victims, or children with Autism, Downs Syndrome or any disorder that may cause them to become lost.

Each participant has their own transmitter with a unique frequency number. The trans-

mitters are worn either on the wrist or the ankle and are removed only to change the battery once a month when the bands are cut off and then replaced. The transmitters are waterproof so they can be worn in the shower, bath, pool or ocean.

The SAFE TRAK equipment is able to locate an individual by ground up to a mile away and by air up to five miles away. When a call is made to the 9-1-1 call center, the “trackers” are contacted and respond to the scene. Tracking starts from the last known location and a grid search is begun. Nationally, the recovery time once the tracker has arrived is twenty-two minutes. Recently, St. Johns County had a call to recover a non-verbal sixteen year old autistic child. Recovery time from the trackers arrival on the scene until they recovered the child was eleven minutes.

The savings in utilizing this equipment is not only measured in lives. The cost of a rescue without this equipment is estimated at \$5000 per hour

(manpower, canines, air support, etc.) With the tracking equipment the cost can be less than \$100 per hour (depending on the number of individuals responding).

In St. Johns County alone, there are over 3,400 individuals diagnosed with Alzheimers. Add to that the incidence of autism increasing and the number of individuals at risk for becoming lost grows each year. Once missing, the more time that passes, the higher the risk of fatality.

More information on the SAFE TRAK Program will be coming soon to:

<http://www.sjsso.org/>

*Sandra Nasca is the Master Tracker for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and participates in the EMS for Children and PIER Committees.*

*PIER (Public Information Education and Relations) Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the EMS Advisory Council on issues related to injury prevention.*

*If you have established a program that you wish to be considered for a PIER Spotlight article please e-mail Cory Richter at :*

*crichter@ircgov.com.*

## News from the Bureau of EMS Compliance Section by R.C. "Pipp" Pippin, Compliance Officer Supervisor



We are pleased to report that inspections are moving along as planned for the year. It is always great to go out and meet the people in the field and to look at different service operations.

In review of 2006 inspections data, it was noted that 4% of the services inspected had deficiencies related to pediatric supplies and/or equipment. What is more alarming to report is that in 2007, the number of services with pedi-

atric supplies and/or equipment deficiencies rose to 18%. During the first quarter of 2008, this number is already at 17%.

As a reminder, we have listed the pediatric supplies and/or equipment that services are required to carry at all times on their units.

The EMS Compliance Unit works closely with the EMS for Children Program in regard to pediatric issues. Please

help us in our efforts to ensure we successfully meet the challenges involved with caring for one of our most vulnerable populations, our children.



## Pediatric Supplies and Equipment

- Blood Pressure Cuffs-Infant and Pediatric
- Stethoscope
- Pediatric Cervical Immobilization Device
- Padding for Lateral Lower Spine Immobilization
- Oxygen Mask-Infant and Child
- Bag-Valve Mask-Infant and Child
- Pediatric Nasal Cannulae
- O.B. Kit
- Oral Airways
- Nasal Airways
- Bulb Syringe (not in the O.B. Kit)
- Thermal Absorbent Reflective Blanket
- Laryngoscope Blades
- Endotracheal Tubes
- Endotracheal Sylets
- Pediatric Arm Board
- Magill Forceps
- Meconium Suctioning Device
- Pacing Electrodes
- Pediatric Length Measurement Device
- Monitoring Electrodes

Please visit <http://www.fl-ems.com> for the most current version of the rule which includes a copy of the complete supplies and equipment list.



## Correction to January 2008 Newsletter

Some of the figures in the previous newsletter regarding the 2007 EMS Service Inspections were incorrect. The following are the correct figures. Sorry for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Total Number of Inspections: 130  
68 were announced.  
62 were unannounced.

48 of those had 1(a) deficiencies corrected on-site at the time of inspection.  
68 were in compliance at the time of inspection.  
14 services had deficiencies that had to be corrected within twenty-four hours.  
23 services had pediatric deficiencies (most were corrected at the time of inspection).

## EMT & Paramedic Violations and Disciplinary Actions: December 2007-February 2008

The following information is provided on a quarterly basis to assist EMS agencies and professionals so that proactive measures may be taken to reduce these infractions.

Violation	EMT	Paramedic	Total
Sexual Battery on a Minor	1	0	1
Tested Positive for an Illegal Substance	4	6	10
Failure to Complete CEs	2	0	2
DUI	1	1	2
Practice Beyond the Scope of Certificate	1	0	1
Failure to Treat/Transport	0	1	1
Falsification of Run Report	0	1	1
Armed Robbery for the Drug Oxycotin	0	1	1
Failure to Complete Patient Report	0	1	1

  
This chart outlines the types of violations by profession.



  
This chart outlines the disciplinary actions for the violations listed in the previous chart.

Disciplinary Action	EMT	Paramedic
Voluntary Surrender	1	1
Probation	4	6
Fine	3	1
Suspension	1	1
Revocation	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>



## Full Scale Exercise at Tallahassee Regional Airport

by Jack Pittman, Office of Emergency Operations

On March 13, Tallahassee Regional Airport held a full scale exercise in accordance with FAA requirements. The exercise began with a shooter who was able to cause the crash of an incoming passenger jet. The crash was simulated with an aircraft mock-up spewing fire and smoke. About 50 victims and debris were scattered around the crash site.

The North Florida Region Domestic Security Task Force (NFRDSTF) took advantage of this exercise to stage a functional exercise of its Alternative Medical Treatment Site (AMTS). The AMTS was pre-deployed and pre-staged at the airport. The objectives were limited to credentialing medical staff, receiving and processing patients, and handing off GREEN patients they had evaluated and treated to a family reunification center.

The AMTS was organized using an

Incident Command structure with an Incident Commander, Plans Chief, Operations Chief, Logistics Chief, Safety Officer, doctors, nurses and paramedics from both Leon County hospitals.

Leon County EMS used a new tracking system that took and transmitted a photo of the victims as well as other identification data.

The AMTS support mission was initially limited to GREEN patients only however, when the EMS triage unit became overwhelmed, they began transporting YELLOW and RED patients to the AMTS as well. This unexpected situation stressed the medical staff as they had to quickly move GREEN patients as more severely injured patients began arriving.

Although this was the first functional exercise of this level for the NFRDSTF AMTS and had limited objectives, their planning, organiza-

tion and professionalism was evident at the site. Gail Stewart, the NFRDSTF Hospital Coordinator, served as the AMTS Incident Commander and was the lead planner for this event.

Some of the photos from the event are included on this page. Florida State University extensively documented the exercise including the initial arrival and moulage of victims. Those photos can be found at:

<http://cdrp.net/newsevents.cfm>





## Senate Bills (SB) and House Bills (HB) That May Affect the EMS Community



March 4, 2008 marked the beginning of Florida's Legislative Session. The following bills are being monitored by the Division of Emergency Medical Operations (DEMO) for their potential impact on emergency medical services (EMS) and trauma.

SB 2314 (Atwater)-Firefighters and Paramedics/Cancer: Cancer development in firefighters and paramedics is to be presumed accidental and suffered in the line of duty, unless the contrary is shown by competent evidence. Requires all firefighters and paramedics employed by government to undergo physical examinations prior to employment.

SB 658 (Bennett)-Aggressive Driving: This bill provides that a person convicted of road rage and aggressive careless driving shall be cited for a moving violation and punished as provided in section 318.19, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Provides for a civil penalty for a violation of section 316.1923, F.S., for the first violation in the amount of \$100, and for a second subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than \$250, but not more than \$500 and be subject to a mandatory hearing under s. 318.19. Directs the Department of Revenue to remit surcharges and penalties collected into the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Trust Fund to be used to provide financial support to certified trauma centers to ensure availability and accessibility of trauma services throughout the state. Provides the allocation methodology of these funds to the trauma centers.

HB 1177 (Bean)-Aggressive Driving: This bill amends s. 316.1923, F.S., to provide that a person convicted of aggressive careless driving shall be cited for a moving violation and punished as provided in Chapter 318, F.S., and by the accumulation of points provided in s. 322.27, F.S., for each act of aggressive careless driving.

In addition to the fine or points administered for the above violation, a person convicted of aggressive careless driving shall pay a fine of \$100 for the first violation and upon the second or subsequent convictions, a fine not less than \$250, but not more than \$500. Upon a second or subsequent conviction the offender is subject to a mandatory hearing under s. 318.19, F.S. The bill directs the Department of Revenue to remit the monies received as a result of the increased fines and penalties collected into the DOH administrative Trust Fund to be used to provide financial support to ensure the availability and accessibility of trauma services throughout the state. It provides allocation methodologies for distribution of these funds to verified trauma centers, EMS and rural EMS.

HB 243 (Anderson and SB 564 (Constantine)-AEDs (no impact to DOH at this time): Revises provisions relating to maintenance and training requirements and notice to EMS medical directors. Revises requirements for civil immunity for use or attempted use of defibrillators on victim of perceived medical emergency.

SB 1694 (Aronberg) and HB 997 (Domino)-Regulation of 911 Emergency Dispatchers: Requires the DOH to establish criteria, requirements, renewal procedures as well as disciplinary guidelines for certified 911 Emergency Dispatchers.

HB 839 (Homan) and SB 1640 (Baker)-Emergency Health Care Providers: This provides certain protections under the waiver of sovereign immunity statute, s. 768.28, F.S., and defines emergency health care providers and EMS under that statute. It adds a provision requiring emergency health care providers to indemnify the state for any judgments, settlement costs, or other liabilities in-

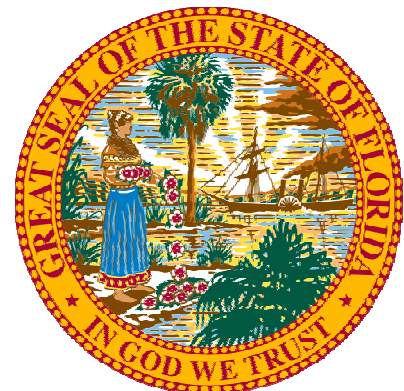
curred, and it provides penalties for emergency health care providers who do not indemnify the state within a specified period.

HB 965 (Hudson) and SB (Aronberg)-Public Records Exemption for EMTs and Paramedics: Includes EMTs and paramedics in the Chapter 119 public records exemption for law enforcement, firefighters, judges, child abuse investigators, etc. The exemption is specific to personal information regarding EMTs and paramedics as well as the personal information regarding their spouses and children.

To check the status or obtain more information on these bills and other legislation visit Online Sunshine at:

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm>

*Please note that some of these bills may have been amended by the time this article is published.*



## Dates to Remember

April 16-18	EMS Advisory Council and Constituents Meeting, Hilton Cocoa Beach Cocoa, FL
May 18-24	National EMS Week
May 21	EMSTARS Regional Training, Hampton Inn Pensacola Beach Pensacola, FL
May 22	EMSTARS Regional Training, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort Destin, FL
May 27-30	16th Annual Sterling Conference, JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes Orlando, FL
June 3	EMSTARS Regional Training, Hilton Singer Island Oceanfront Resort West Palm Beach, FL
June 4	EMSTARS Regional Training, Embassy Suites Ft. Lauderdale, FL
June 5	EMSTARS Regional Training, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters Miami, FL
June 9	EMSTARS Regional Training, Crown Plaza Fort Myers, FL
June 10	EMSTARS Regional Training, Hilton Longboat Key Beachfront Resort Sarasota, FL
June 11	EMSTARS Regional Training, Embassy Suites Tampa Brandon Tampa, FL
June 12	EMSTARS Regional Training, Ocala Courtyard Marriott Ocala, FL
June 13	EMSTARS Regional Training, Jacksonville Fire Rescue Headquarters Jacksonville, FL
June 17	EMSTARS Regional Training, Volusia County Training Center New Smyrna Beach, FL
June 18	EMSTARS Regional Training, Hilton Melbourne Beach Ocean Front Melbourne, FL
June 19	EMSTARS Regional Training, Hilton Walt Disney Resort Orlando, FL
June 26	EMSTARS Regional Training, Location TBD Crawfordville, FL
July 8-10	EMS Advisory Council and Constituents Meeting/ClinCon, Rosen Centre Hotel
July 9	18th Annual Excellence in EMS Awards, Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL

For more details about the EMS Tracking And Reporting System (EMSTARS) regional training schedule visit:

<http://www.floridaemstars.com>

## 18th Annual Excellence in EMS Awards

The Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center (EMLRC) and the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, are partnering to present the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in EMS Awards on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This event is being held in conjunction with EMLRC's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Conference on Emergency Medical Services (ClinCon).

The awards will honor outstanding Florida EMS organizations and individuals who have made a positive impact on EMS throughout the state.

If you are interested in supporting this event by becoming a sponsor, please contact Wesley Houtz at (407) 281-7396 ext. 12 or via email at [whoutz@emlrc.org](mailto:whoutz@emlrc.org).

Current sponsors include:

Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers, Inc.

Lake Sumter EMS

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

Additional information about the EMS awards and ClinCon can be found on the following website:

<http://www.emlrc.org/clincon2008.htm>



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<http://ww7.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/flemscomm>