

Florida Department of Health

Bureau of EMS: Vitals

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EMSTARS Contributes to National EMS Registry

On April 15, 2008 the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS' Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) submitted 110,500 prehospital data records to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS). In June 2008, the Bureau of EMS completed a second upload with over 70,000 records. These records were submitted from the data provided to EMSTARS from the 20 pilot agencies for the period of October 2007 to May 2008. Florida is now the 10th state in the nation submitting data to the National EMS Registry.

The National EMS Registry is maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The data provided will be used to improve pre-

hospital care for patients all across the country. This database will also provide information at the federal level to researchers and legislators to help make informed decisions regarding financial and resource allocation to state and local emergency services. The Bureau of EMS will begin submitting data to NEMSIS on a quarterly basis.

Other states providing data to NEMSIS include Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota and Utah. As of May 29, 2008 NEMSIS contains over 3 million records.

For all the latest information about EMSTARS please visit: <http://www.floridaemstars.com>

Cyanokits® Distributed by: Bobby Bailey, Office of Emergency Operations

The Florida Department of Health recently distributed Cyanokit® 5g (hydroxocobalamin for injection) ANTIDOTE, cyanide poisoning treatment kits to Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ground EMS agencies statewide. Distribution of the Cyanokits® has been made possible through a federal homeland security grant.

The goal of this cyanide antidote distribution is to enhance the EMS agencies' ability to treat a potential cyanide exposure of either the first responders primarily, or an encountered victim secondarily. These kits have been selected by the EMS

medical directors from across the state as the preferred antidote kit and they can be used to treat any type of cyanide exposure.

ALS agencies received a minimum of two kits and will have the authority to position the kits as needed to best achieve utilization plans for protection of first responders and potential encountered victims. Placement on ALS permitted vehicles (transport/non-transport), command cars, or HazMat vehicles staffed with a paramedic or in centralized location will vary accordingly to agency size and appropriate proto-

cols.

More information on the Cyanokits® as well as other disaster preparedness initiatives are available at:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/ems/disasterresource.html>

If you have questions about this project or any other EMS chemical antidote project, please contact Bobby Bailey, Florida Department of Health, Office of Emergency Operations at 850-251-0743.

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Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium 2008

The Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program and the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center have partnered together to present the Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium 2008 “The Premier Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Conference” on November 11th –12th, in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Centre Hotel. This symposium is designed to provide the highest-quality emergency care to pediatric patients. Continuing education units will be offered to participants.

For further information please call (800) 766-6335 or visit the following website:

<http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2008.htm>

Limited registration scholarships are available. Please contact Patricia Kenyon, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, at (850) 245-4440, extension 2686 or by email at: Patricia_Kenyon@doh.state.fl.us to discuss opportunities to receive a registration scholarship to attend the symposium.



News from the Bureau of EMS Compliance Section

by R.C. “Pipp” Pippin, Compliance Officer Supervisor

Inspections: A total of 91 inspections have been completed so far this year. 48% were unannounced and 52% were announced. That only leaves 57 more inspections left for the year. We are still running 18% deficiencies in pediatric supplies and equipment. Only 8% of the services had deficiencies at the time of inspection. Please take note of the pediatric supplies and equipment list that services are required to carry at all times on their units. You may also download the most recent version of the rule, which includes vehicle equipment lists at:

<http://www.fl-ems.com>

Training: We are proud to announce and welcome Ms. Rebecca Cash as our new training coordinator. Rebecca comes to the bureau with many years of experience in the field of EMS and training. Rebecca has been in the EMS field for 17 years and has been the training director and coordinator at North Florida Community College for the past four years. Rebecca holds a Bachelors of Science in Health Care Administration and a Bachelors of Arts in Business Administration.

Pediatric Supplies and Equipment List

- 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

EMT & Paramedic Violations and Disciplinary Actions : March 2008– May 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.

Only one action was reported for this period:
“Practicing Without an EMT Certificate” against an EMT. The disciplinary action taken: Fine Issued.

Please be advised that effective June 17, 2008, Richard McNelis has replaced LeeAnn Gustafson as the prosecuting attorney for the Bureau of EMS. Richard McNelis is housed in the Office of the General Council at the Florida Department of Health.



A Note on Paramedic Field Internships on ALS Engines

As a response to several inquiries made by educators regarding paramedic field internships on Advanced Life Support (ALS) engines, please refer to the following information:

Section 401.2701(b)2, Florida Statute, requires the field internship experience be aboard advanced life support permitted ambulances. The statute reads as follows:

Paramedic programs must be available only to Florida-certified emergency medical

technicians or an emergency medical technician applicant who will obtain Florida certification prior to completion of phase one of the paramedic program. Paramedic programs must be a minimum of 700 hours of didactic and skills practice components, with the skills laboratory student-to-instructor ratio not exceeding six to one. Paramedic programs must provide a field internship experience aboard an advanced life support permitted ambulance.

Section 401.23 Definitions:

(5) “Ambulance” or “emergency medical services vehicle” means any privately or publicly owned land or water vehicle that is designed, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, equipped, or operated for, and is used for, or intended to be used for, land or water transportation of sick or injured persons requiring or likely to require medical attention during transport.

Family Disaster Plan

Hurricane season began June 1, 2008 and lasts until November 30, 2008. Are you and your family prepared? In a major disaster, emergency workers sometimes can take up to two to three days to help. Are you prepared to be without electricity, gas, water or telephone services? Having a Family Disaster Plan can help during such a time.

Creating a Family Disaster Plan is easy and takes only 10 to 15 minutes. Please visit the following website for instructions on how to create one:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/family>



2008 Excellence in EMS Awards

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Excellence in EMS Awards. This year marks the 18th year the Bureau of EMS has honored outstanding Florida EMS organizations and individu-

als who make a positive impact on the state EMS system.

Awards will be presented at 5:30 p.m. on July 9, 2008 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Council meetings

and the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center's 34th Annual Clinical Conference on EMS.

2008 Award Winners:

- **Provider:** Lake-Sumter Emergency Medical Services
- **EMT:** Jodi Coffee, Sunstar Paramedics
- **Paramedic:** Mike Scott, Seminole County Fire Department
- **Educator:** Daniel J. Griffin, Florida Association of EMS Educators
- **Dispatcher:** Terry Hansen, Indian River County Sheriff's Office
- **EMS for Children:** Julie Bacon, R.N.
- **EMS Nursing:** Debbie Vass, R.N., Sunstar Paramedics
- **Friend to EMS:** Robin Butler, Seminole County Government Traffic Engineering
- **Larry Jordan EMS Hall of Fame:** Chief Daniel Azzariti, New Port Richey Fire Department
- **Marilyn Crook EMS Pioneer:** Chief Charles Moreland, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department
- **Raymond H. Alexander EMS Medical Direction:** Dr. Catherine Carrubba, Aeromed at Tampa General Hospital
- **EMS Injury Prevention:** Charlene Cobb, Sunstar EMS
- **Photo of the Year:** Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
- **2008 Inductees to the EMS Memorial:**
Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez Paramedic, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, May 1, 1965—March 3, 2008
Alexis Lopez-Lima EMT, Firefighter, City of Miami Fire Rescue, April 30, 1974—May 6, 2008

Photo of the Year winner from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. Photo of the Year honors a photograph by an individual or organization that best depicts this year's EMS Week Theme, "EMS: Your Life Is Our Mission."



2008 National EMS Week

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS hopes everyone had a very happy EMS Week! EMS Providers across the state were busy hosting exciting activities for this national event. We at the bureau thank you all for all that you do year round to promote and protect the health and safety of Florida's residents and visitors. Your commitment to public health truly depicts this year's theme, "EMS: your Life is Our Mission."

In honor of you, the Bureau of EMS was involved in various activities. Here are some of the highlights:

- Press releases were issued recognizing EMS Week, EMS for Children Day and this year's recipients of an Excellence in EMS Award by the Florida Department of Health.
- Certificates of appreciation were mailed to EMS provider agencies and initial training centers.
- Copies of the proclamation signed by Governor Charlie Crist observing May 18-24, 2008 as EMS Week were mailed to the county commissioners, EMS provider agencies and initial training centers.
- Promotion of awareness of community AED programs in partnership with the American Heart Association's (AHA) Heart Ready Community Award Program. The Bureau of EMS worked with the Department of Health Safety Program and submitted an application to the AHA for this recognition on behalf of the DOH to reflect its leadership role in public health.
- Promoted stroke awareness activities in partnership with the American Stroke Association.
- In honor of EMS for Children (EMSC) Day, the Bureau's EMSC Program and the EMS Advisory Council's Public Information, Education and Relations (PIER) Committee distributed the PIER CD to EMS provider agencies, hospitals with emergency departments, county health departments, EMS initial training centers, Children's Medical Services clinics, county school superintendents, EMS Advisory

Council members, EMSC Advisory Committee members, and constituency group presidents. The PIER CD highlights examples and materials to start or add to existing injury prevention programs.

- The Florida EMSC Program also partnered with the Nemours Clinics in Jacksonville, Orlando, Pensacola and Baptist Health in recognition of EMSC Day to promote the awareness level of special needs of children by handing out the "blue band-aide" stickers on EMSC Day.

Help us celebrate your achievements! To be considered for recognition in FLEMSCOMM or the EMS newsletter, you may email your EMS Week activities and noteworthy accomplishments throughout the year to:

Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us



Nominations for Injury Prevention Award

The Florida Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention (OIP), in conjunction with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention. The 2008 Injury Prevention Award Nomination Application is available through the OIP website and the deadline for nominations is **September 1, 2008**.

To nominate someone for the award and to learn about past recipients please visit the following website:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/#Award>

For more information, please contact Frieda Travis, OIP, at (850) 245-4444 ext. 2736 or by email at: Frieda_Travis@doh.state.fl.us

EMS Services Honored for Rendering Aid

Gadsden County EMS and Liberty County Ambulance Service were recently recognized by the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Operations (DEMO) for their dedication and service rendered in the aid of an EMS system in crisis. During the months of January and February of 2008 both services stepped up to the plate to help the citizens of Calhoun County by answering EMS service calls and transporting patients to the care they required within that county.

Both services received certificate plaques honoring their hard work and selfless dedication in a time of need. Both plaques were signed by Dr. Jennifer Bencie, Division Director for DEMO, and John Bixler, Chief of the Bureau of EMS. They were then

hand delivered to Gadsden County EMS and Liberty County Ambulance Service by R.C. "Pipp" Pippin, Deputy Chief of Operations at the Bureau of EMS and Barbara Hyde, Regulatory Specialist at the Bureau of EMS.

Once again the Florida Department of Health, DEMO and the Bureau of EMS commend both services on a job well done!



Gadsden County EMS Chief Brian Beasley, Gadsden County Commissioners, Assistant Gadsden County Manager Arthur Lawson, Sr. and the Gadsden EMS Medical Director Dr. Sutton receiving their plaque.



Liberty County receiving their plaque. From left to right: Paramedic Maria Crump, EMT Laryus Brown, Liberty County EMS Director Patricia Shuler and R.C. "Pipp" Pippin from the Bureau of EMS.



Gadsden County EMS Chief Brian Beasley and Deputy Chief of Operations R.C. "Pipp" Pippin.

Lake-Sumter EMS Rolls-Out Mobile Medical Command Post

On April 23, 2008 Lake-Sumter EMS rolled-out their new Mobile Medical Command Post to support the Leesburg Bike Festival.

The Mobil Medical Command Post is a 28 foot heavy duty trailer supported by a dedicated tow vehicle. The Command Post features two dispatcher work stations, five command officer workstations and a multi-purpose area which can be utilized to treat patients, store medical equipment and supplies or provide temporary crew quarters.

The primary mission of the Command Post is to provide a setting for EMS, Fire Department, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management and other public safety officials to coordinate joint operations as a Unified Command at special events or emergency incidents. Plans also call for the Command Post to support extended emergency operations, provide a back-up dispatch center, support mass casualty incidents and to deploy to support remote disaster operations.

Funding for the Command Post was provided by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS through an 80/20 competitive grant awarded to Lake-Sumter EMS.

An article about the Command Post was featured on MSN Money at <http://www.MSN.Com>.

To learn more about Lake-Sumter EMS you can visit their website at:

<http://lakesumterems.org>

Sunrise Fire-Rescue Wins IAFC Award



Sunrise Fire-Rescue earned the 2008 ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Awareness Community Program Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). This award recognizes a fire-service EMS system that has implemented a community program to help improve therapies for patients with acute coronary syn-

drome and its life-threatening complication: sudden cardiac arrest.

Sunrise Fire-Rescue was praised for its community CPR programs, overall heart-health and wellness initiatives and professional best practices including the recognition and management of STEMI (an indicator of acute heart attack).

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Operations and the Bureau of EMS commend Sunrise Fire-Rescue on their achievement.

The IAFC was founded in 1873 and represents the leadership of more than 1.2 million firefighters.

Lake-Sumter EMS Launches New 911 Campaign

Jim Judge, Executive Director of Lake-Sumter EMS, has taken a bold new step to educate people on how to make the right call in an emergency by launching a new website called "Whentocall911.com". Part of its focus is to help people know who, how and when to call for help in an emergency, what to do while waiting for the ambulance, and what information should be gathered to help emergency personnel when they arrive on the scene.

Jim Judge said he is eager to help residents understand this campaign and learn that it's in their best interest to think responsibly when calling for ambulance service.

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.LakeSumter.EMS.org>



Sunstar EMS Vehicles Go Wireless



In September 2007 Sunstar EMS installed In Motion Technology aboard all their vehicles allowing data to be transmitted reliably over a single network connection. The In Motion Technology provided the capability to integrate functions such as dispatch, billing, training and vehicle monitoring and tracking.

In Motion's onBoard™ Mobile Gateway creates a high-performance wireless network

around emergency vehicles, enabling all on-board devices, including surveillance cameras, medical devices, vehicle safety, dispatch and diagnostic systems. The onBoard™ Mobility Manager provides operations with end-to-end fleet management capabilities providing real time information on communications and vehicle operations on a powerful and flexible map display. Paramedics can access content in

the field, including training courses, web sites, and pharmaceutical information.

Sunstar EMS plans to use the technology to transmit ECG information to hospitals later this year.

For more information about Sunstar EMS, please visit the following website:

<http://www.sunstarems.com>

Dates to Remember

July 8-10	EMS Advisory Council and Constituents Meeting/ClinCon Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL
July 8	Rule Workshop for EMS Instructor Criteria, Neonatal Interfacility Transfers and Proposed EMT/Paramedic Examination Rule & Application Changes Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL
July 9	18th Annual Excellence in EMS Awards Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL
July 14	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Rule Hearing Florida Department of Health Headquarters Tallahassee, FL
October 1-3	EMS Advisory Council and Constituents Meeting Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club Naples, FL
November 11-12	Pre-Hospital Pediatric Education Symposium Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL

New EMS Advisory Council Member Appointments

Effective July 1, 2008 the following members will be appointed to the following positions:

Chairperson:

C.T. "Chuck" Kearns, MBA, Paramedic, EMD-5, Pinellas County

EMS Administrator (Non-Fire):

Chief Michael Patterson, MNsc, PhD, Putnam County EMS

Lay Elderly:

Doris Ballard-Ferguson, BSN, ARNP, MNsc, PhD, Florida A&M School of Nursing

Emergency Nurse:

Amy Paratore, RN, Tampa General Hospital

EMS Administrator (Fire):

Chief William R. Colburn, Reedy Creek Fire Department

EMT (Non-Fire):

Chief Tom Quillin, MBA, Leon County EMS

Commercial Ambulance Operator:

Alan Skavroneck, Ambitrans Medical Transport

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FLEMSCOMM

The Bureau of EMS' mailing list was created to enhance our communications within the community. Subscribers to the mailing list will receive automatic e-mails that consist of current events, news, and updates for the Bureau and the EMS community. To subscribe to the mailing list and receive automatic e-mail updates please visit:

<http://www.fl-ems.com>