



25th Annual EMS Symposium



This issue of RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA includes the schedule for the 2000 State EMS Symposium. This year's event will be held at the Egan Center, in Anchorage, on November 9, 10, and 11. The hosting hotel is the Hilton Anchorage Hotel where the special conference rate is \$81 per night (single or double). The toll free reservation line for the Hilton Anchorage Hotel is (800) 245-2527. A shuttle bus service will be provided to and from the conference site during normal conference hours.

As you can see from the schedule, this year's symposium should be both entertaining and educational. It is our 25th Annual EMS Symposium, so help us celebrate! We have many new and innovative speakers attending this year's event and welcome back several others who have made their marks on Alaska EMS.

Pre-Symposium Workshops

There are several high quality pre-symposium workshops from which to choose. These classes provide an opportunity to learn about a subject in more detail than is possible during the 90-minute presentations found on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, November 8, we will begin with a two-day *Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals* course. This course will be the Advanced Life Support (ALS) version and include an instructors session at the end of day two. Registration is limited to 24, so don't delay.

Thursday, November 9, we have a full day planned with many options for obtaining continuing education credit. We are offering three full-day classes: *EMS Billing 101*; *Children with Special Health Care Needs Workshop*; and *Domestic Preparedness Training*. There are also five other half-day sessions. They are: *Collecting and Using Prehospital Data in the Field – The Field Perspective*; *Stand & Deliver: High Impact Presentation Skills*; *Active Training Techniques: Promoting Learning By Doing*; *Child Safety Seat Installation*; and *Five Step Planning Process – Planning Your Local Injury Prevention Program*.

All sessions will be at the Egan Convention Center but please check the schedule for time and location. We are also featuring a one-day *Emergency Medical Dispatcher*

Refresher course which will be on Thursday.

Opening Session

You don't want to miss this year's opening session. As in years past, we will announce the nominees and winners of many of the Governor's EMS awards. This will provide an opportunity for award winners and nominees to be recognized by their peers and colleagues during Symposium.

General Session

This year's General Session should be a real crowd pleaser. We have Richard Levitan, M.D., the developer of the Airway Cam, a direct laryngoscopy video system, as our speaker. He will take us on a unique visual tour of airway anatomy using a variety of advanced imaging technologies projected on a large screen. Imaging will include flexible fiberoptic rhinolaryngoscopy and rigid stroboscopic laryngoscopy, in addition to Airway Cam images of intubation on a wide variety of patients. A volunteer will be used to demonstrate dynamic airway anatomy on stage from the nares to the vocal cords. This presentation will also include practical information and techniques that will improve your skills in airway management. Dr. Levitan comes to us from the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where he is an attending



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An Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Publication

Tony Knowles, Governor
Karen Perdue, Commissioner

RESPONSE: EMS Alaska

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INJURY PREVENTION TRACK



Injury remains the number one cause of death of Alaska's children. EMS responders are ideally suited to play an expanded role in injury prevention. This year's Injury Prevention track will focus on how EMS responders can become more involved and will help provide the tools to do so.

"Five Step Planning Process – Planning Your Local Injury Prevention Program" is a half-day program on Thursday to assist participants in identifying your community's problems and developing a plan to address the problems.

Thursday's afternoon session will be on child passenger safety. Most people buy a child safety seat and just put it in the car without ever picking up the instruction manual. Therefore, most people are unaware the majority of safety seats are improperly installed. This session will teach participants how to assist parents and other child caregivers to properly install child safety seats in a multitude of vehicles. It will also provide recertification training for individuals who have received training in the past.

We hope to see many of you at these presentations and others — ready to make an impact on your patient's life beyond his or her immediate health care needs.

On Friday, November 10, 2000, Providence Alaska Medical Center will sponsor the Safe Kids Luncheon for those who are active or interested in child safety issues. The luncheon will be limited to the first fifty pre-registrants. You won't want to miss this exciting luncheon!

CLINICAL TRACK



This year's clinical track promises to hold educational opportunities for emergency physicians, as well as nurses in the emergency arena.

As in the past, the focus in the clinical track is not just EMS topics. We have a wide range of topics as you can see in the clinical track schedule. There have been some changes this year that I think will improve the overall program.

First, we have added an extra day. Thursday will now be a day of lectures, in addition to Friday and Saturday morning. On Saturday we will have the EMS Medical Director luncheon and subsequent meeting lasting until 5:00. The nurses will have a presentation that afternoon from 1:30 – 3:00.

The lecture times have been expanded as well. The time allotted for each lecture is now 90 minutes. We hope this allows for an expanded question and answer period. This will also enable lecturers to answer individual questions in the back of the room or the hallway. Please let us know how you like it.

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(continued from Page 1)

physician and lecturer for the Emergency Medicine Department. He is also the founder and president of Airway Cam Technologies, Inc. His Airway Cam has been featured on an episode of *ER* and in one of the videos for the *Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)* course, recently developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Airway Cam has won education exhibit awards from the American College of Emergency Physicians and the International Anesthesia Research Society. You won't want to miss this exciting session.

(continued from page 2)

I am working on having breakfast and lunch provided for the clinical track by local pharmaceutical companies. This is a work in progress and you will be updated on the times and location if this plan works. The goal is to have 7:30 AM breakfast at the Egan Center every morning before our 8:30 am lecture start, as well as lunch at the Egan Center. In addition, the coffee breaks have been expanded.

Please take a look at the list of lecturers and topics we have assembled. I think you will agree we have an exciting program scheduled. Our goal is to have excellent CME opportunities in the state, as well as improving a sense of community amongst emergency medicine providers.

Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. Nursing CEUs have also been applied for.

Any suggestions on how to improve the symposium, or any other comments, please contact Doreen Risley at the Juneau office 465-8633, or e mail me at ScottDull@aol.com.

*Scott Dull MD
State EMS Medical Director*

Pre-Symposium Highlights

EMS Billing 101: The "Real Life" Course for Understanding EMS Billing

Leslea Adams, of Mediclaims, Inc., will walk you through Medicare billing requirements, including cost analysis and setting fees, terminology, definitions, coverage guidelines, documentation tips, signature requirements, skilled nursing home contracts, physician certification forms, what to expect in an audit, in an easy-to-understand style. Leslea will end the



day discussing the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee and the up and coming new National Limiting Fee Schedule for Ambulance Services. This is a class you will not want to miss!

American Heart Association Year 2000 Changes



Once again it is time to incorporate new information into how we teach and perform CPR.

The science that is used to develop curricula and performance standards for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation is constantly being improved upon and those standards have to be periodically updated to stay current with new information. There are also changes in how the new standards will be incorporated into the educational model the American Heart Association uses.

How this information is to be taught has also undergone considerable change, plus there are new materials and books that will have to be integrated. Just as we had many challenges in becoming familiar with the new CTC based-business model being used by the American Heart Association (AHA), there will be challenges in becoming familiar with the year 2000 changes.

These changes, which are based on proprietary information, will not be published in the JAMA but will rather take the form of rollouts similar to the way the EMT-B curriculum was introduced a few years ago. **In order for American Heart Association instructors to be able to teach and access the new materials, they will have to attend one of these rollouts.** If you have any concerns, questions or comments on what you must have in order to remain a current AHA Instructor, please contact your local CTC or appropriate regional faculty for clarification. The first rollout available to the general public will be held in Idaho in October.

It is the intent of the Alaskan Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) Committee and the three disciplines of Regional Faculty to have this information available to Alaskans during the state EMS symposium being held in November in Anchorage. This will be the preeminent rollout for the American Heart Association in Alaska. Times and dates for future rollouts will be set at a later time.

I would highly recommend that all American Heart Association instructors find the time to attend either the Idaho rollout in October or the Alaskan rollout in November

Skip Richards
ECC member
BLS Regional Faculty Chair

Hotel Reservations

The hosting hotel is the Hilton Anchorage Hotel where the conference rate is \$81 per night. The toll free reservation line for the hotel is 800-245-2527. Those needing hotel reservations are encouraged to contact the Hilton Anchorage Hotel as soon as possible and before October 10, 2000, to guarantee the special symposium rate. Information regarding the shuttle bus service to and from the conference site will be available at hotel check-in.

We would like to remind you of the importance of staying at our host hotel, the Hilton Anchorage Hotel, which is offering us the special symposium rate. While we realize some of you may want to stay at other locations for a variety of reasons, your support is very important to the Symposium overall. Staying at the official host hotel assists in many ways, including offering significantly reduced costs for our speaker rooms, providing the shuttle service to the Egan Center, and other benefits based on the number of hotel rooms used. This in turn, allows us to bring you the highest quality speakers and helps us to keep the Symposium registration fees at the same low rates as in previous years.

Parking



The Egan Center is located on 5th Avenue between E and F Streets and there are many convenient options for parking nearby. There are approximately **800 free parking spaces** within a five-block radius of the Egan Center. Monday through Friday, between 9 AM and 6 PM, you may park for two hours on a block. On Saturday, Sunday, evenings, and municipal holidays, free parking is permitted at all metered spaces. Parking and garages nearby include:

- JC Penney Garage (6th and Fifth Street)
\$8.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 6th Avenue Parking Garage (enter on H Street)
\$5.00 all day (75 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours
- 5th Avenue Parking Garage (5th and B Street)
\$5.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours
- Dimond Parking Lots
Weekdays by the hour
Saturday, \$2.00 all day
- Hilton Anchorage Hotel Parking
\$12.00/day for valet parking in garage
\$6.00 all day, self parking lot
(Parking prices subject to change)

Participate in the 23rd Annual All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition

The King Career Center Emergency Services Technology Program and the Alaska Medical Support Team are organizing the All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition. This annual event will be staged on Saturday, November 11th, in the Egan Center.

The organizers of the skills competition will distribute to all teams who pre-register a list of specific criteria by which the teams will be judged, as well as the criteria used for tie breaking. The criteria also will be sent to those organizations requesting them in writing.

Trophies and plaques for the top five teams will be presented at a ceremony during the awards banquet on Saturday, November 11th, at the Egan Center. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Entry forms are contained in this issue, if you have any further questions, please contact Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition Rules

- Three practical problems will be selected from the EMT-I skills levels.
- Only one team (two members) from each organization may enroll.
- Each team is required to bring its own trauma kit, equipped as the members see fit. Any specialized equipment required for the practical will be furnished by the committee. If it is not possible to bring a kit, please let the committee know in advance and one will be supplied. No books will be allowed.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each team must send completed entry blanks before November 2, 2000, so adequate plans may be made for space. Late entries may be accepted on a space available basis.
- Each team is composed of two competitors and one judge. That judge will proctor a team other than the one from his or her service area. The judge may come from an area outside the team's service area. The judge must be certified to at least the EMT-I level.



It's not too early to begin planning for the 2001 Alaska EMS Symposium! Next year's event is scheduled to be held in Anchorage from November 15 – 17. **Put it on your calendar now.** Topics and speakers will be largely determined by Symposium evaluations and letters. Let us know your suggestions!



Upcoming Regional Symposia

Southeast Region EMS Symposium

March 21 - 24, 2001
(3/21 & 3/22 are pre-symposium classes)
Sitka, Alaska

Information:

Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
(907)747-8005
serems@ptialaska.net

Interior Region 6th Annual EMS Symposium

May 17 - 20, 2001
(5/17 & 5/18 are pre-symposium classes)
Fairbanks, Alaska

Information:

Interior Region EMS Council, Inc
(907)456-3978
<http://www.iremesc.org>



Child Passenger Safety

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has published safety tips to help guide the public through the maze of concerns related to passenger safety for infants and children. There were 21 Alaskan children under age 9 admitted to a hospital in 1998 as a result of a traffic crash. Trauma registry data bear out many of these concerns.

- ◆ Infants should ride in rear facing restraints, preferable in the back seat, until about age 1 and at least 20-22 lbs. *One infant less than one year of age was injured while restrained in a seat belt in the front seat of the car. He suffered a brain injury.*
- ◆ Your child should stay in a car safety seat with a full harness until the seat is outgrown, usually at about 40 pounds. Most 40-pound children are not big enough to fit lap and shoulder belts properly. So when a child's shoulders are above the top set of strap slots, it is time for a booster seat. *The Alaska Trauma Registry currently does not collect information about the use of booster seats.*
- ◆ The back seat usually is safer than the front, because head-on crashes are the most common kind. *Of the 21 injured children, four (ages 2 - 6) were known to have been riding in the front seat.*
- ◆ Children who have outgrown safety seats are better protected by lap/shoulder belts than by lap belts alone. *Two of the injured children (ages 7 and 8)*

were restrained by lap belts only. One suffered a head injury and the other abdominal injuries.

- ◆ If no shoulder belt is available, it's much safer for anyone (except small babies who can't sit up) to use just a lap belt than to ride loose. Keep the lap belt low and snug across the thighs. *Five children (ages 2-8) suffered serious injury in a car crash while unsecured. One two-year-old opened the door, fell out, and was run over. An eight-year-old was ejected from the vehicle during a roll-over.*

Instructions on how to properly secure a child safety seat can be found at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/newtips/tip6.html>. Check it out and
remember to buckle up!

*Martha Moore
Alaska Trauma Registry*

New Trauma Registry Software

The biggest news this month for the Alaska Trauma Registry is the purchase of new trauma registry software by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS).

Five vendors responded to our request for proposals, and, after careful review by an evaluation committee, Digital Innovation, Inc. of Forest Hill, Maryland, was chosen. Their software product, "Collector," has been on the market for over a decade, is used by hundreds of hospitals worldwide, and met or exceeded all of the specifications set forth by CHEMS in the letter of solicitation..

Features include:

- user friendly data entry with on-line help;
- customizable data set;
- built-in data validity and completeness checks;
- integrated coding software and Abbreviated Injury Scale scoring;
- querying capabilities; and,
- standard and ad-hoc reports.

Conversion of current trauma registry data to the new software should be complete by the end of the calendar year.

For most of the registrars, who do not do their own data entry, the transition to the new software system will involve some revisions to the data collection worksheet and abstracting manual. The December workshop, tentatively scheduled for the week of December 4th, will provide training for these abstracting revisions.



EMS Symposium Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits for EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, nurses, physicians and physician assistants are being arranged for most of the programs.

“Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.”

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.’s web site after September 1, 2000, at <http://www.sremsc.org>.

EMS Symposium Special Events

- ◆ There will be a complimentary luncheon for EMS Instructors sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital on Friday, November 10th, from 12:15 - 1:30 PM. It will be located at Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Road. You can sign-up to attend on the symposium pre-registration form. Space is limited to the first 50.
- ◆ The Twenty-third Annual All Alaska EMT Skills Competition will be held on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the skills competition is being organized by EMT-Instructor Alan Loken and sponsored by the Alaska Medical Support Team. (See page 4 for details)
- ◆ The Twenty-third Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at the Egan Center. Annual Governor's EMS Awards will be presented to a Consumer/Citizen, Provider, Administrator/Researcher, Nurse (the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award), EMS Educator, and a Physician (the Longenbaugh Memorial Award). An Outstanding Ambulance Service award and a \$500 gift certificate from Safety Incorporated also will be presented.

Because of subsidies generously provided by several vendors, the cost for the banquet is only \$25.00. The menu will be a green garden salad; choice of one: Sirloin Steak or Baked Salmon; and chocolate mousse. Please indicate choice or any special dietary needs when pre-registering.

Airfare

Alaska Airlines is offering discounted airfare for travel to the Symposium. They will give **5%** discount on all published excursion fares except for companion fares, “V” inventory or other promotional offers. They will discount **10%** from YAS booked in “Y” inventory. All fare rules apply. Request code **CMR4441**.



Alaska-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team

On April 31 the Alaska Disaster Medical Assistance Team (Alaska-1 DMAT) earned its Level 1 status from the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS Office of Emergency Preparedness.

NDMS was established to provide medical assistance to Americans in the event of a natural or man made disaster and give stateside support for the injured men and women of the US Military. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, FEMA and the U.S. Veterans Administration have been made responsible to establish and grow the NDMS. There are over 70 Level 1, 2, 3 and specialty teams in the system. NDMS is comprised of DMAT, Disaster Mortuary Teams (DMORT), Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (DVAT), National Medical Response Teams (NMRT) and several specialty teams.

When activated Level 1 DMATs are deployed to assist local emergency responders from all states provide medical care for their citizens. Once on site, teams are equipped to be self-reliant for 72 hours and assist by providing clinical care as well as insuring the safety and health of all teams members. Treatment areas, power generation, radio communications personnel shelters can be established and maintained. NDMS teams will not become a burden to the state or local areas we are sent in to assist.

Alaska-1 DMAT is now one of the Level 1 teams and the only team in the system at this time that will have cold weather response capabilities. The team is made up of volunteer doctors, nurses, PAs, paramedics, EMTs and non-medical support personnel. Teams members have deployed to the Nikes Games, Kosivo refugee processing and medical support for the Anchorage 2000 millennium celebration.

For more information or to attend a monthly meeting contact them at:

Alaska-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team
ANMC
4315 Diplomacy Drive
Anchorage, Alaska, 99508
907-729-1895

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Opening Session
Mark S. Johnson, MPA, Chief
Section of Community Health & EMS
Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager
Section of Community Health & EMS

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM General Session
Airway Theatre
Richard Levitan, MD
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM LUNCH
Safe Kids' Luncheon
Top of the World
Hilton Anchorage

EMS Instructors' Luncheon
Sponsored by Alaska Regional
Hospital

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM Equipment Demos by the Vendors

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
(BLS Track) What to do when you don't know what to do...
Debby Hassel
Fairbanks Fire Department

(BLS/ALS Track) Clandestine Drug Lab
Tom Wells
Anchorage Fire Department

(BLS/ALS Track) Alternative Airways
Richard Levitan, MD

(BLS/ALS Track) The Assessment and Management of the Critically Ill Child
Doug Diekema, MD
Children's Hospital and Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

(Injury Prevention) A K-12 Curriculum to Promote Drowning and Hypothermia Prevention
Marian Allen
Alaska Marine Safety Education
Association

(AHA Update) AHA Year 2000 BLS Updates
AHA Regional Faculty

(Management Track) Prehospital Documentation and the Courtroom Connection: Part I
Skip Kirkwood
Informatics and Quality Improvement
Manager
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
Aloha, Oregon

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
(BLS Track) Trauma Assessment and Management
Ray DuGray
President/CEO
Interactive Corporate Solutions
Winnipeg MB Canada

(BLS/ALS Track) Pediatric Respiratory Emergencies
Doug Diekema, MD

(BLS/ALS Track) Emergency Management of Burns
William Wennen, MD
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Fairbanks, AK

(BLS/ALS Track) Trauma in the Elderly
Rob Janik, MICP
Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Sitka, AK

(AHA Update) AHA Year 2000 BLS Updates (Repeat)
AHA Regional Faculty

(Injury Prevention) Children's Snowmobile Awareness Class
Kenai Safe Kids Coalition

(Management Track) Prehospital Documentation and the Courtroom Connection: Part II
Skip Kirkwood

6:00 PM **"Meet the Speaker" Reception**
Location: Hilton Anchorage Hotel

CLINICAL TRACK

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Care of Children with Special Health Care Needs
Terry Adirim
Children's National Medical Center
Washington, D.C.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM General Session
Airway Theatre
Richard Levitan, MD
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Emergency Plastic Surgery for Everyone
William Wennen, MD
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Fairbanks, AK

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM The Difficult Airway
Richard Levitan, MD
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

6:00 PM **"Meet the Speaker" Reception**
Location: Hilton Anchorage Hotel

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

(BLS Track)

EMS Tactical Defense

Ray DuGray

(BLS/ALS Track)

Death Right Under Our Noses

Mark Laubacher, RN, CEN, CSPI,
NREMT-P

Central Ohio Poison Control Center at
Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH

(BLS/ALS Track)

RSV/Bronchiolitis

Rosalyn Singleton, MD

(BLS/ALS Track)

Emergency Childbirth

LifeGuard Alaska

(AHA Update)

AHA Year 2000 PALS Updates

AHA Regional Faculty

(BLS/ALS Track)

TBA

(Injury Prevention)

Can We Teach Teens to Drive

Safely?

Tricia Lillibridge, RN
Alaska Injury Prevention Center

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

(BLS Track)

Preparing Your Patient for

Medevac

Mike Motti, EMT-III

SEARHC

Sitka, AK

(BLS Track)

TB

Bobbi McCumber, RN
Section of Epidemiology
State of Alaska

(BLS/ALS Track)

Field Cervical Spine Clearance

Rob Janik, MICP

(BLS/ALS Track)

Assessment and Stabilization of the

Pediatric Trauma Patient

Brian Carriere, CFRN, CEN, NREMT-P

LifeGuard Alaska

Anchorage, AK

(AHA Update)

AHA Year 2000 PALS Updates

(Repeat)

AHA Regional Faculty

(Injury Prevention)

Recognizing and Intervening in the

Suicidal Patient

Susan Soule

Alaska Division of Alcoholism and Drug
Abuse

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

(AHA Update)

AHA Year 2000 ACLS Updates

AHA Regional Faculty

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

(BLS/ALS Track)

Helicopter EMS Operations

Ed Raupe, RN, EMT

LifeGuard Alaska

(Management Track)

Grant Writing Panel

Larry Bussone, Facilitator

Department of Health & Social
Services

Community Health and EMS

(Instructor Track)

Instructor Internet Resources

Valerie DeFrance, MICP

1:30 PM

Skills Competition

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

CLINICAL TRACK

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Minor Head Injury In the

Pediatric Patient

Doug Diekema, MD

Children's Hospital and Medical
Center

Seattle, Washington

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 AM

TBA

Mark Laubacher, RN, CEN, CSPI,

NREMT-P

Central Ohio Poison Control Center at
Children's Hospital

Columbus, OH

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

(Nursing Track)

Addiction in the Workplace:

Recognizing and Caring for the

Impaired Individual

Gabriele M. Gerteisen, RN, ANP, PhD

Providence Alaska Medical Center

Anchorage, AK

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

EMS Medical Directors

Workshop

* See article on page 2 for additional
information regarding this
session.

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

Section of Community Health and EMS Reorganization

The Section of Community Health and EMS was recently reorganized.

The Primary Care and Health Promotion Unit was divided into two separate units, with Jayne Andreen assigned the duties of Health Promotion Unit Manager. Pat Carr continues to supervise Primary Care/Rural Health.

The Injury Prevention staff, including David Thomson, Mary Krom, and Maria Bailey, was reassigned from Health Promotion to the EMS Unit, under the supervision of Martha Moore, who has served for over 10 years as Trauma Registry Coordinator. This new Injury Surveillance and Prevention sub-unit will work to: reactivate a statewide Injury Prevention Coalition; update the Alaska Injury Prevention Plan, which was completed in 1994; and work toward development of a comprehensive injury prevention program consistent with models promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national organizations.

By placing this sub-unit within the EMS Unit, there will be increased opportunities for the injury prevention staff to provide technical assistance and support to EMS organizations throughout the state, as well as to a wide variety of other groups and organizations with interests in injury prevention.

*Mark S. Johnson, Chief
Community Health & EMS*

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Distributes Personal Flotation Devices

Thanks to the generous donation of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), the hard work of White Mountain NSEDC representative Dan Harrelson, also a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), and the assistance of Nome Outfitters, the NSEDC "Kids Don't Float" program was born. The program has distributed over 4,000 Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) to every student under the age of 18 in 15 villages throughout the Norton Sound Region.

The program was first conceived about a year ago when Mr. Harrelson approached the corporation asking for a donation to provide PFDs for the kids in the region. The corporation approved the program and with the assistance of Nome Outfitters, NSEDC was able to purchase PFDs at near cost from Stearns Manufacturing. Mr. Harrelson then enlisted the assistance of VPSOs in the region to help distribute the PFDs. In addition to the PFDs distributed, the program has includes an educational program that was coordinated by Alaska State Troopers and the VPSO Program, and presented by the VPSOs in each of the communities. The education involved videos, discussion and pamphlets. Parents were also encouraged to participate.

It is noted that the kids are wearing the PFDs when around and in the water and VPSO Harrelson hopes this behavior will remain into adulthood, and looks forward to continued support from NSEDC and the Alaska State Troopers in making the Regional waters a safer place for children and adults alike.

Web Site for Continuing Education Information:



Public health professionals can stop surfing dozens of government, university and private-sector Web sites for continuing education information. Now there is a one-stop, online central depository of distance learning material at:

<http://www.TrainingFinder.org>

This new clearing house, co-funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, is being launched today by the Public Health Foundation.

At no cost, users can search the site containing more than 200 courses by subject, target audience, credit type or keyword. The listing provide content, format, cost and contact information. Academic, federal, private and non-profit organizations can input new course information directly into the database.

For more details, contact Robert D. Reine with the Public Health Foundation at (202) 898-5600 x3017, or reine@phf.org.

CHEMS Web Site Updated



The web site for the State of Alaska's Emergency Medical Services Program has been expanded, improved and moved! The new site is located at: <http://www.chems.alaska.gov> and offers the benefits of the previous site, such as a downloadable forms, curricula, newsletters, treatment guides and other essential materials, plus new features, including:

- an on-line certification database (updated daily);
- discussion forums;
- search engine; and
- many new files and links.

The Section of Community Health and EMS was redesigned through a contract with Valerie DeFrance, who, in addition to being an experienced web designer, is an Alaska Paramedic and EMT Instructor. The Section's entire site (emergency medical services, primary care, community health and injury prevention programs) was updated with an aesthetic and functional structure.

The on-line certification database will be of particular interest to EMTs in Alaska. It allows EMTs to view basic, non-confidential, information about their EMS records. Separate and enhanced systems exist for use by emergency managers, as well as for EMS administrators and instructors.

The revision of the site represents a milestone in the development of our web-based resources. Our future plans include moderated discussions on our discuss lists, a searchable on-line database of EMS training opportunities and, eventually, the ability to provide specialized continuing medical education on-line.

If you have suggestions for improving our site, please let know.

Contracts and CHEMS

The EMS Unit, within the Section of Community Health and EMS, has few staff, a small budget, and much to do.

As a result, we must seek additional funds to achieve particular goals. In most cases, this is done by identifying potential sources of funding and submitting grant applications. Many of these grant programs are very competitive.

When we are successful in obtaining grant funds, we often use some of the funds to contract with subject experts



to complete certain tasks. Past contracts included developing the *Responding to Behavioral Emergencies* CD-ROM, updating and enhancing our EMS web site, funding speakers for EMS symposia, developing model standard operating guidelines, developing materials for use for high school based ETT training, and developing model standing orders (more on the latter two projects in the next issue of *RESPONSE: EMS Alaska*).

Some of our ongoing projects include funding the following:

- Emergency Trauma Technician Training in high schools;
- pediatric emergency training (PEPP, ENPC, PALS, etc.);
- injury prevention response teams;
- the development of injury & illness prevention materials;
- the assessment of the "telereadiness" of EMS personnel and agencies;
- the installation and evaluation of videophones to improve the post discharge care of children in some rural parts of Alaska;
- the development of a bioterrorism resource guide;
- the development of Emergency Medical Services for Children related television and radio public service announcements for distribution throughout the state;
- the travel of EMS technical assistance teams to local communities; and
- the development of pediatric emergency care self study continuing medical education materials.

The processes of soliciting, reviewing and funding contract proposals are well prescribed in state policies and procedures, and we go out of our way to make sure the letters of solicitation are widely distributed. We now post nearly all of our letters of solicitation related to EMS and injury prevention on our web site at: <http://www.chems.alaska.gov>.

We encourage members of the Alaska EMS and Injury Prevention communities to submit proposals in response to our letters of solicitation. Larry Bussone, MSW, MPA, the manager of the Administrative Unit within CHEMS, will be facilitating a panel discussion on writing grant and contract proposals during the State EMS Symposium, which will provide a wealth of information on this important subject.

Matt Anderson
EMS and Injury Prevention Unit Manager

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