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# AMBUGLANCES

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## WHO WILL IT BE?

The applicants were interviewed and we are all waiting for the decision. The question is who will be the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of EMS for Georgia. We expect to hear by the next issue. Billy Watson is the acting Director.

## NEXT MEETING OF THE EMS COUNCIL

The Region 1 EMS Council will meet on Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in Rome at 1309 Redmond Road at the Offices of Region 1 EMS. Boundtree Medical will sponsor the meal. One of the topics to be discussed is a potential change in the zoning plan. The meeting is open to the public. The Executive Committee and Transportation Committee will have a joint meeting prior to the Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the same location.



## FARM ACCIDENT EXTRICATION CLASS

A free Farm Accident Extrication class will be held in Aragon in Polk County on August 25, 2010 from 9:00 am. To 2:00 pm. The class is sponsored by Floyd Medical Center EMS and offers 3 hours of approved continuing education for EMS personnel. The instructor will be Dr. Glen Rains, PE, Associate Professor, University of Georgia Biological and Agricultural Engineering. To register contact Robin Wheeler at [rwheeler@floyd.org](mailto:rwheeler@floyd.org) Other courses to be offered soon by FMC are AMLS, EPC, PHTLS, BLS, GEMS, ACLS and ATT.

## IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR RE-LICENSURE

You may still submit late re-licensure for your EMT or Paramedic license with a late fee until December 31, 2010. Your license is valid until September 30, 2010.



## LIFEFORCE NIGHT OUT IN MURRAY COUNTY

Erlanger Medical Center based Lifeforce Medical Air Transport will be holding an education event in Chatsworth on August 12, 2010 from 5:30 – 8:10 pm. The speaker will be Dr. Darwin Koller, Assistant Professor of University of Tennessee College of Medicine. The subjects will be Pediatric Airway and Thoracic Trauma. 2 hours of approved continuing education has been awarded by Georgia. Contact [craig.mcdonald@erlanger.org](mailto:craig.mcdonald@erlanger.org) to register.

## **ALL HAZARD COUNCIL RESTRUCTURED**

The Georgia All Hazards Council is being re-structured. The Council is composed of representatives of the 22 counties (GEMA Area 6) in DCH EMS Region 1 with three counties from DCH Region 4 and 2 counties from DCH Region 2. Federal grants for terrorism and natural disaster preparedness has been debated by this Council and recommendations are forwarded to the Emergency Preparedness Officials in Atlanta. Much of the items for Hazardous Material decontamination and disaster response trailers were supplied by grants reviewed by this council. The council has recommended 2009 and 2010 grants for communications interoperability. One of the significant changes which have been made to this council is elimination of review of grants for GEMA Area 6 which now is being transferred to Atlanta offices. The present chairperson of the Council is Scotty Hancock, Floyd County GEMA Director.

## **PHARMACY POLICY NOW REQUIRED FOR EMS SERVICE LICENSE**

Submissions of licenses applications for Medical First Responder, Ambulance, Neonatal and Air Transport Services for new, renewal and anniversary are now required to include a copy of a pharmacy policy signed by the EMS Director, Medical Director and Pharmacy representative. A copy of a draft policy approved by the EMS Council is available through David Loftin at Region 1 EMS.

## **SCANNED INFORMATION FROM PAPER PCR FORMS TO BE NOT ACCEPTED**

Billy Watson, Acting Director of the Georgia Office of EMS has mandated that no scanned information from paper patient care reports will be accepted after January 1, 2011. The last order for paper patient care reports will be on October 15, 2010. All submissions into the GEMSIS web portal must be from direct entry or a download from approved vendors software after January 1, 2011.

## **HEAT WAVE CONTINUES**

A long period of temperatures over 90 degrees is continuing. Please be careful to protect your drugs and iv fluids from being exposed to temperatures outside of the manufacturers recommended storage temperature range. I recommend the following actions:

1. When the vehicle is not in-service, remove the drug and iv box and place it in a secure place in a temperature controlled environment.
2. Park the ambulance in a temperature controlled secure bay.
3. Maintain the drugs/ivs using an on-board refrigerator or other means.

## **IS 40 HOUR FIRST RESPONDER COURSES A GOOD OPTION?**

Georgia does not license 40 hour Medical First Responder course graduates. Recent changes in the National Registry to computerized testing eliminated the on-site testing and doubled the costs to the graduate. There are multiple agencies teaching the course such as American Red Cross, National Safety Council and American Health and Safety Institute. Most of the instructors teaching this course find that there is insufficient time to teach the subjects and increase the hours to above 90. The EMT-Basic course can be taught by Georgia Level II Instructors is 110 hours and offers a Georgia license. The cost of testing is about the same as the First Responder. Even though zoned providers may not use EMT-Basics, non-zoned services may use 1 EMT-Basic as a crew member. Licensed Medical First Responder services may use the EMT-Basic as the sole crewmember. This means that the graduates may be hired by non-zoned services. The EMT-Bs may be upgraded to EMT-Intermediate without completing an entire course and may enter a paramedic course without any additional training. Region 1 is like the rest of Georgia in manpower shortages to staff the ambulances and First Responder vehicles. All counties are encouraged to develop their own source of additional manpower from within the county. In my opinion, teaching EMT-Basics is the better method.