

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter



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Exposure Control Plan



A new OSHA-compliant exposure control plan (ECP) has been placed into service and is in effect. The ECP is contained in a blue binder that will be kept at the report desk at station 1 at all times. A copy is also being made to be kept at our Babb station. It contains information on the procedure for dealing with a possible exposure by one of our employees as well as information on proper disposal of contaminated equipment, clothing and methods for disinfecting items. The ECP is also available online on our website in the staff-only section. Any employee wishing to have his/her own hard copy will be provided one free of charge. If you wish to have your own copy, forward your request, in writing, to the infection control officer and one will be given to you within 15 days of your request. Our department's infection control officer is Kyle Starr.

EMT Class Update

Many of you have probably already seen the ad in the Pioneer Press, but the EMT class is set to begin on Jan. 8th. The course will run Tue/Thu/Sat until March. A number of people have already shown interest in attending, and it is certainly not too late for anyone still thinking it over. If you know anyone who may wish to take part in it, please have them get into contact with Brian or James as soon as possible.

“Never go to a doctor who’s office plants have died”

Erma Bombeck, Author, Humorist



You don't always need bright colors to make a vehicle more visible. Even a subtle color combination such as this example can add a high degree of visibility to a vehicle. This color combination is being considered for possible use on the back of our next rig.

The Page-Out will take on a new look in February!

Ham it Up

GCEMS EMT Cliff Wevley traveled to Great Falls on the 4th of December where he successfully completed his FCC Level 1 Technician amateur (HAM) radio license exam. He has a base station, mobile and a portable radio operating. His designated call sign is KE7QIP. He plans on taking his FCC level 2 general exam in the future.



Suppose this vehicle's operator had his wheels chocked?

When our vehicles are parked with the engine running, do you trust the transmission to stay in park? It never hurts to put on the parking brake, and besides, the idle controller kicks in when the brake is on.

Possible Bag Change Coming

We are considering switching to one medical bag to carry what has been traditionally carried in the ALS and BLS bags. The bag we are seriously looking at, which is made by StatPacks, would be safety green in color, feature extensive reflective striping, has straps to allow carry as a backpack, and would carry all of our ALS and BLS supplies, including an oxygen cylinder. Having all our scene equipment in one bag would simplify things by not having to grab multiple bags, and the straps would make it easier to carry the bag out while also working a stretcher.



We recently got word that there is a class-action lawsuit that is being formed against Ford Motor Company by ambulance services that have had problems with Downtime and maintenance with rigs that have the 6L diesel engine. We are looking into our options regarding this suit and will give updates as available.

★ Chief's Corner ★

If you haven't already noticed, there are some new memos up regarding the new Medicare forms. I talked with Healthcare Billing and the forms are to be used **ONLY** in the event that you can't get a patient signature on the report on the computer. If a signature doesn't show up, please go ahead and get the signature via the form or use the form and follow the steps if the patient is unable to sign.

Also, We have a new and simpler Physician's Certification Statement (PCS) form regarding patients needing ambulances from one facility to another.

Lastly, I put out a memo on suggested radio procedures as things have been getting a little lax on the air. I'd also like to see us start acknowledging whether the truck is ALS (Medic-#) level or BLS (A-#).

Safety Quote for the Month

"It's better to crash into a nap than nap into a crash"

Know your limits. EMT's, If you are exhausted, let someone else take that middle-of-the-night transfer so you can get some rest. Paramedics, if you have already been out most of the night, see if the 2nd out medic will take the transfer for you so you can rest up.

Safety Corner

I know the safety section of the newsletter oftentimes deals with safe driving practices, but in our field, it is vehicle accidents that injure and kill EMS workers on the job more than any other factor. An example of why safety policies need to be followed would be the recent collision of Baltimore FD Truck 27 and an SUV that it struck as it went through a red light at 47 mph. The accident killed the three occupants in the SUV. All emergency vehicles operating in Baltimore are required to stop at red lights before proceeding through, but Truck 27 did not follow the policy on this call, and paid for it dearly.



Photos from the Baltimore Sun



If you found this tattoo during your assessment, would it give your heart a little jump?

From www.strangedangers.com

Happy New Year!



Can you spot the rookie?

Humor Corner

Patient Rules for Visiting the ER (from Emergency Nursing World)

- If you complain about the BP cuff being too tight, you obviously aren't experiencing as much pain as you would have us believe.
- Never start out a conversation with the doctor with "I was looking on the internet". . .
- If you are well enough to complain about the wait, you are probably well enough to go home.
- Don't ever answer a question with "it should be in my chart".
- Understand that we see people in order of the seriousness of their conditions, not by who was there first. The guy with the 2x4 sticking out of his chest will see the doctor before we take the splinter out of your hand.

Scientific / Medical Jargon Translated

- "In my experience" = Once
- "It is generally believed" = A couple of other guys agree also.
- "In case after case" = Twice
- "In a series of cases" = Three times
- "Correct within a general magnitude" = Mostly wrong
- "According to statistical analysis" = Rumor has it
- "It is believed that" = I'm taking a wild guess
- "It has long been known" = I didn't look up the original reference.

The Full Circle of Medicine (for an earache)

- 2000 BC Eat this root
- 1000 AD The root is from the ground and therefore from the devil, say this prayer to be healed.
- 1850 AD That prayer is superstition, drink this potion.
- 1940 AD That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill.
- 1985 AD That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic.
- 2000 AD That antibiotic is dangerous, eat this root.

Department Tidbits

- We have purchased a new brand of EKG electrodes to try. Please give your feedback to EMS1 regarding them.
- Brian recently repainted the bathroom.
- Kyle recently repainted the SAR office.
- Let Brian know if you are interested in being a lab assistant for his EMT class.
- Paramedics, we have a lot of medications that expire on Jan. 1st, we need to be sure to do thorough inventories on all the rigs so they can be replaced.
- Floyd and Angie picked up a lot of the open shifts we had in Dec. Thanks for the extra help!
- If you do a rig check, please be sure to write the date on the truck board in the bay so someone does not waste time doing an inventory that was just done.
- All the diesel rigs need to have anti-gelling additive added every time they are fueled throughout the winter months.