



The Page-Out

Official Newsletter of Glacier County EMS



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Published by Kyle Starr, CCEMT/P

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EMS Provider of the Year

EMT/First Responder Floyd Peterson was announced as the Glacier County EMS Provider of the Year at the annual awards banquet held at station 1 on Thursday, May 22nd. This is the second time that the



award has been bestowed upon Floyd, the last time being in 2005.

Floyd is known for his work ethic, positive attitude and always giving 110% of himself. He frequently takes shifts that need covered at the last minute, as well as going transfers in the middle of the night on a moment's notice, even when not scheduled.

Congratulations Floyd, keep up the good work!

Paramedic Kyle Starr Resigning

Critical Care Paramedic Kyle Starr has submitted his resignation from Glacier County EMS effective June 22nd. He has accepted a position as a firefighter/paramedic with Red Lodge Fire/EMS in Red Lodge, MT.



As far as EMS goes, there are a lot of similarities between the two departments. Red Lodge is a combination career/paid-on-call department just like us. Their call volume is a bit lower, but they perform critical care transports just as we do.

Starr, who worked in the fire service prior to coming to Montana, is looking forward to being able to have his hands in both EMS and fire-fighting, stating "both are very satisfying jobs, and combining them, it doesn't get much better than that". Kyle, whose great-grandfather was a New York City firefighter, has numerous other family members in the fire service or in law enforcement and is happy to be continuing the tradition.



Equipment Update

Those of you who have worked on A2 lately have probably noticed the new gear bag onboard. After some concerns were raised about the Stat Pack that we have been testing, namely the premature wear problem, it was decided to test another bag. The bag currently being



tested on the 1st out truck is made by Meret. We were impressed by the more durable material, which will wear better in the heavy-duty world of the emergency services. It features ample reflective piping, heavy-duty YKK zippers and is highly configurable.

Some other problems noted with the Stat Pack included a flimsy top carry strap, no wear plate or feet on the side so it could be stored on it's side, lack of exterior compartments and lightweight mesh in the inner modules that tears easily.

Safety Corner - Stay Seen, Stay Safe

Those of you who have been on the department for several years know that we have put a lot of emphasis on safety in the last few years. The highway is often called the most dangerous workplace in the US, and for good reason. Deaths injuries along America's highways are decreasing, which many people attribute to better safety awareness, improvements in safety equipment and emphasis on high visibility and reflective clothing. There are a lot of dif-



ferent items of high-vis clothing and gear available to suit any situation in any weather.

In fact, a study in the UK has

shown that 28% of vehicular collisions with pedestrians or workers could be avoided by the use of high visibility and reflective clothing. Ireland is even considering a law mandating all pedestrians to wear high-vis clothing. Some military bases in the United States such as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and Quantico Marine Corps Base already require the use of reflective clothing when walking/running or bicycling on base from evening to dawn and anytime there is reduced visibility.



Medical Terminology - What did he say?

Pathological: Altered or caused by disease. Indicative of disease.

Idiopathic: Arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown source.

Epistaxis: Nosebleed

Parathesia: A sensation of pricking, tingling or creeping on the skin having no objective cause and usually associated with injury or irritation of a sensory nerve or root.

Malaise: A generalized feeling of discomfort or illness.



Chief's Corner by Chief James T. Laidlaw IV

A Call to Action

The Montana EMS Alliance is looking for you. Several issues face our state and we see them here as well. Declining volunteer workforce due to the "Graying of EMS" changes in household incomes (both parents have to work) and a general attrition of EMT's whose career expectancy is about 3 years. The EMS Alliance has a website and will be looking for input. www.montanaheros.org is the web address. Although it's in its infancy, the mission statement and other information should be posted soon as well as a blog for EMT's to tell their stories. There are 4600 licensed EMS professionals in this state both paid and volunteer so let's make our voices heard.

Of Budetary Concern

If you missed the last business meeting, claim forms need to be turned into me before the end of the of the budget year. Some things that are being requested for the new fiscal year are increases in some of the sections. Education, Uniforms, of course fuel, and payroll all are getting requests for increase. Some of the requests and keep in mind these are requests at this time. Step pay for Critical Care certification, increases in call pay for both paid and volunteer staff, and lastly an increase in volunteer hourly wages.

Relay for Life Team!

We need people to volunteer for the Relay for Life Team. I believe Angie will be taking over the Team Captain role for our team. Remember you don't have to be an EMS Member to participate, we're merely sponsoring the team. Rhonda's working on getting her toilet ready for a fundraiser for the event as well. The Relay will be August 2nd and I am hoping for us to show a strong support on the medical community side of it all.

Infection Control

Traditionally, patients who are on a ventilator are often at risk for developing ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) because of medication-resistant bacteria.

A study of over 1,500 people showed that the incidences of infection could be reduced by more than 40% by the use of silver-coated endotracheal tubes.

Mortality rates are 25-30% for those patients who develop VAP infections, and medical bills can soar by more than \$40,000 due to prolonged ICU stays.

From Infection Control Today 5/19/08

Stethoscopes, Are They Clean?

Many reports cite stethoscopes as one of the leading vectors of infection. A 2005 study by Bottom Line Health found that 133 of 150 physician's



stethoscopes harbored staph bacteria.

Being a non-invasive instrument, stethoscopes are often overlooked during post-call

decon and cleaning. Being one of the most commonly used medical instruments we use carry, it can also be the

best way to transmit harmful pathogens.

Does your pediatrician let your child play with their stethoscope? Do you wonder where it has been today?

To reduce the chance of spreading pathogens via stethoscope, next time you use hand sanitizer, put a little extra on your hands and rub some on the head and neck of the stethoscope. An alcohol wipe is also sufficient for cleaning them in-between patients and after calls.

Next time you are cleaning after a call, be sure to remember the scope. Not just the head, but the body, tubing and ear pieces should be cleaned as well. Let's all make an effort to keep our coworkers and patients as safe as possible!

Safety Award

At the 2008 annual department awards banquet held on May 22nd, Safety and Infection Control Officer Kyle Starr was pleased to award the employees of Glacier County EMS with a safety award recognizing no occupational exposures or lost work injuries in the last year. This award goes to everyone on our department who did their part to see that we performed our operations safely in the last year. Let's keep up the good work!

Chief Attends Training

Chief Laidlaw went to Anniston, Alabama the week of May 27th to attend training at the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness.

Chief Laidlaw plans on sending some of our other personnel to some of the training provided there in the near future, as all costs are incurred by the federal government.

Daily Vehicle Checks

Effective May 20th, daily readiness checks on the 1st and 2nd-out vehicles were made mandatory by Chief Laidlaw. The checks include fluids, lighting, O2 tank levels, cleanliness, and vital functions such as turn signals and lights.

There are forms at the report desk on a clipboard to utilize when performing the checks. When complete, they are to be placed in the chief's box. Of course, if there are any major problems found, they are to be reported to the chief of OIC immediately.

Daily vehicle checks are common in public safety departments and are important

measure in ensuring the safety of our crews and patients. Starting June 14th, the weekend medics will be responsible for checking A3 and A4 in addition to the main-out trucks.

By performing these checks every AM, you can get on your truck and go to a call confident that you have adequate O2 on board, that all your emergency lighting is functional, etc. Medics, please do these checks immediately upon coming on-shift in case you get an early call.

Department Tidbits

- Emily Babcock is officially on our roster as an EMT/B. Her number is EMS-46. Welcome aboard Emily!

-A2 got 4 new tires on May 20th. The duals on both sides were found to be worn and warranting replacement. A1 got all new tires just before that.

- The Go Light has been repaired on A2 and is functioning now.

- The LED clearance lights that were out on A2 and A1 have been replaced, though a new one is now out.

The new ambulance's arrival has been delayed slightly, with August the expected arrival date now. The previous date was in July.

- Angie will be taking over the website.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

PALS
Montana D.R.I.V.E.
PHTLS

Coming soon to Cut Bank!
See the bulletin board.
July, see the bulletin board



**GLACIER COUNTY
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

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Cut Bank, MT 59427

Administration: 406-873-2722
Station Line: 406-873-2727
Station No. 2: 406-732-5508
Fax: 406-873-2436



**Fiscal Year 2008
Responses**

July	84
August	75
September	51
October	50
November	51
December	46
January	78
February	65
March	79
April	46
May	75

Total: 700



“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Montana D.R.I.V.E Program

One of the biggest training topics that people have been wanting is driver training. It makes sense, as vehicle operations account for the majority of injuries to emergency responders.



The Montana D.R.I.V.E (Driver-In-Vehicle) program is a program put on by the state that teaches basic vehicle handling in a safe, controlled setting.

Their fleet consists of sedans, an ambulance, a fire engine, passenger vans and more, so participants are able to get experience in the type of vehicle they operate at their workplace.

Some of the topics covered in the training in-

clude direction/motion control, evasive steering, controlled braking, skid control, off-road recovery, cornering and more.

The workshops are held June thru August and are 1 day workshops. They also offer half-day workshops that are used as refresher courses for those who have already participated in the full-day course.

The courses are first-come, first-served, and only 12 persons are allowed per workshop. For information and registration form, see their website at www.montanadrive.mt.gov. Their telephone number is 406-444-4432, or email them at MontanaDRIVE@mt.gov.

The one-day workshops are \$260 per person, and the half-day runs \$155 per person.

Photo of the Month



**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING YOUR
LOCAL EMER-
GENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES!**

Safety Slogan of the Month

“Leave your mark on your work, don’t let your work leave a mark on you” - Kyle Starr, GCEMS Safety Officer

Ambulance Crash Statistics

There are 6500 ambulance crashes per year (18/day) nationwide.

Ambulance crashes result in the most EMS lawsuits.

The average settlement in an ambulance accident lawsuit is \$1,000,000.

There are 10 lawsuits for crashes to every 1 for malpractice.

Ambulance rashes injure 10/day and kill 36/ year nationwide.

EMT’s have a higher rate of death in crashes than police officers and firefighters combined.

The most dangerous part of our job is responding to and returning from calls.

Ambulance crashes cost \$500 million per year nationwide.

Do you suppose this is because EMS typically has the least driver training of all the emergency services? With these stats, EMS responders are very much in need of formal emergency vehicle operator’s training. Let’s get something together and start honing our driving skills so we don’t become a statistic.