

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

April 1, 2006



New Items on Rigs

Some new items have recently been added to the main rigs. The CPAP is now located in the same compartment as the Doppler and the IV pump. Activated charcoal has been added to the front right cabinet with the ECG electrodes and the spare LP batteries. We are carrying Pitocin now as well. CPAP is a BLS skill in some states, and we may look into the possibility of implementing it here as well.

Medic Rig Assignments

The primary field medics have devised a system to make maintenance and rig checks easier. Each of the three field medics selected a rig, and will be responsible for rig checks and the equipment on that rig. They will also be responsible for letting the chief know about upcoming oil changes, tire rotations, tire conditions, and any safety issues regarding the vehicle. Also, rig washes are still everyone's responsibility if they are one of the ones who dirtied it. A quick reminder to those paid-on-call staff doing monthly rig checks, please be sure to put the date of the rig check on the truck board in the bay so the medics know when the last check was done and don't do one the day after you did.

Group Photo

At the April 3rd meeting we will be taking a group photo. Please wear your white shirts and dress for photos and wear EMS pants if you have them. Individual photos will be taken at this time as well. If you do not have a white class-a shirt, let James know.

Tidbits

Did you know that twice as many people suffer heart attacks in January than July. Why? There are several contributing factors. People tend to exercise less in the winter. The holiday seasons bring a lot of food that his high in fat. Cold weather causes the coronary arteries to tighten and narrow, increasing blood pressure and forcing the heart to work harder. Blood also becomes sticky and is more likely to clot. And last, people underestimate how much effort it takes shoveling snow.

Transfer Availability

Since very few people have been abiding by the decision at the last meeting and calling in, the medics will be taking the matter into their own hands and may be calling whoever is next up at the beginning of the shift to check availability. If you are next up, you will probably be asked to answer a transfer page after the medic and respond to the station automatically, rather than sit and waste time waiting for a phone call. This has recently cut down our out-the-door time on transfers. I know this isn't "how it was always done", and we appreciate your willingness to adapt as our service grows and changes.

Upcoming Training

Here are some upcoming training events. Let EMS-9 know if you are interested:

PEPP: April 22nd and 23rd

PHTLS: May

Lead Instructor: May 12-14

EVOC: June

Montana Emergency Medical Symposium: April 27-29

Check the website for training opportunities as well as the bulletin board.

Communication

Just a quick note regarding communications. If you ever need to leave a message for any of the main field medics (Kyle, Brian, Ralph), notes can be left upstairs on the passalong board or in their mailboxes. The passalong board is checked every morning

Since 10-codes are optional, and some have had questions as to what 10-codes Glacier County uses, they have been placed on the control panel of A1, A2 and A3. There are also some at the report desk for people to take. They are also posted on the bulletin board upstairs, feel free to make copies. Again, their use is optional.

A2 Phone Update

The phone in A2 was not working well the way it was configured. The swiveling from front to rear for use caused it to loosen and eventually fall off the mount. It has been relocated to the other side. It is fixed in place and will not swivel. It is in position to allow both the person in the back as well as the driver (if stopped) to operate it fairly easily. Hopefully this new setup will work well. Time will tell.

Safety Stuff

Many cases have been documented of EMS workers spreading infectious diseases to their loved ones due to wearing contaminated clothing home and in their vehicle after leaving work or a call.

OSHA recommends the following steps to prevent contaminating your home and your loved ones:

- Keep a spare set of clothes at the station so you can change if you get dirty.
- Never wear clothes home that have blood or bodily fluids on them.
- Launder work clothes separately from family clothes.
- Don't throw dirty work clothes into your vehicle where seats could be contaminated. If you have to take them home to launder, place them in a plastic bag and tie it.
- Be sure the soles of your shoes are not contaminated before entering your home.

Handwashing

A study found that 75% of men wash their hands regularly, as opposed to 90% of women. Remember, this is a critical PPE task and can go along way in protecting your health, especially with all the colds going around right now.

Have an item for the next newsletter? Let EMS 27 know!!

Did you know???

Want to see a glimpse of another EMS service? Think it's work to run our service? I am going to periodically profile an EMS service just for fun. Here's one that would be a lot to keep up with.

Department:	New York City Fire Department EMS Division
Personnel:	
Call volume:	1,863,693 in 2004 3,000 calls everyday
Population Served:	8,008,278
Type of service:	Tiered ALS and BLS ambulances with fire apparatus first-response
Ambulances:	300
Staff:	2,800 EMT's and Paramedics

FDNY EMS Division is the largest fire department operated EMS service in the US. They are not without their share of problems as well. Many of the FDNY firefighters are strongly against the fire department having anything to do with EMS, as unfortunately is the case in many paid fire departments. This will change over time as newer firefighters come along, but it will take time.



Website Update

The website continues to improve almost daily. Some of the countries whose residents have viewed our website lately include: Canada, Germany, Czech Republic, European Union, Switzerland, Australia, Great Britain, France and Israel. Our website received 3,666 "hits" in January 2006, and the figure for March 2006 is already at 18,150. The policy manual as well as a memo archive have been added to make the site a good resource for us as well. It is being upgraded regularly, so check back often!

Humor

EMS is full of acronyms. Here are some that probably shouldn't make it onto run reports!!

CTD	Circling the drain
DND	Darn near dead
FDWB	Fell down, went boom
PBS	Pretty bad shape
PG	Pharmaceutically gifted
PA	Professional alcoholic
PCL	Pre-code looking
EMT	Emergency medical taxi

Time for more "you might work in EMS if jokes: You might work in EMS if:

- Your idea of fine dining is anywhere you can sit down to eat.
- You have ever strangled a partner for saying the "q" word.
- You've ever had a patient you were sure was demonically possessed.
- You worship the inventor of Haldol.