

# The Page-out

## Glacier County EMS Newsletter

April 2007



### Step Up to the Plate

The idea of a custom license plate recognizing the EMS providers in Montana has been discussed off and on for years. Glacier County EMS is taking the initiative in designed such a plate. The proceeds would go to a training and education fund aimed at helping smaller departments with limited budgets have access to training opportunities. The state DMV charges a \$4,000 application fee for all license plate applications, which is the biggest obstacle we are facing. We are going to try to gain support from other EMS agencies and personnel in the state. If we all chip in a little, we can make the project a reality. The prototype design is on display on the bulletin board in the bay at station 1. It's about time that our state's EMS providers, volunteer or professional, have the recognition that they deserve. EMS 27 is the contact person for the project.

### Havre or Havre Not?

We recently received an ALS transfer from Northern Montana Hospital in Havre to Kalispell Regional. While it was a long haul for the crew, it was a welcome call, as we do not receive calls from that medical center often. The crew took the opportunity to hand out a few of our department brochures, which were well received with the medical staff. They have even requested more of them to be mailed to them so that they may be distributed to more of the physicians there. They were impressed with the service we provided them, and stated an intention to utilize us more in the future. Kudos to that crew for giving a positive representation of our department.

### Station Updates

Several blueprints have been developed for a station 1 concept. Senator Tester has opened his office in Great Falls, and a letter went out to him on March 21<sup>st</sup> requesting information on how to go about requesting funding appropriations for use on a new station 1.

Bids have been received for station 2 in Babb. A copy of a floor plan concept is on display on the bulletin board in the bay at station 1.

## Safety Corner

A bit about hi-vis clothing. We now know that the lime-green is the most visible color, even surpassing blaze orange. You may have also heard the term ANSI. It stands for American National Standards Institute. They have rated high-vis clothing into 3 classes. To give you a better idea of what each rating means, they are explained here:

ANSI Class 1: To be worn where traffic speeds do not exceed 25 mph and the work area is relatively hazard-free.

ANSI Class 2: To be worn in inclement weather, and when traffic speeds are between 25-50 mph. Our vests are ANSI class 2.

ANSI Class 3: To be worn where traffic is moving in excess of 50 mph and there are numerous hazards. Class 3 clothing must be visible for 1280 feet. Our parkas are ANSI class 3.

Our 5.11 parka are ANSI class 3, since we work around both city and highway traffic. While hi-vis clothing can greatly increase your visibility to others, there is no substitute for keeping alert and aware of traffic and your surroundings while on-scene.

## More Safety Stuff

Recently, we have had a rash of vehicle accidents during station operations. Both incidents involved department vehicles colliding with a bay door. While we have been fortunate to not sustain any vehicle damage as a result, the station was damaged in both occasions. To help avoid such accidents in the future, we can all follow some general rules.

1. When backing, use a spotter when possible. When not viable, do a quick walk-around of the vehicle and the area to be backed into prior to backing the vehicle.

2. When working in the bays or on the apron, the doors will be either less than 3 feet up or all the way up. Not stopping the door  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  would have prevented both of the recent accidents.

Backing accidents are one of the most common accidents that occur in public safety departments. Following these rules can help us avoid any problems in the future.

**If you have to back into traffic when leaving a scene, turn your emergency lights on to help traffic see you.**

## Montana EMS Facts

Here are some interesting numbers regarding EMS in Montana. All of the figures come from the State of Montana.

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| BLS non-transport units: | 85 |
| ILS non-transport units: | 12 |
| ALS non-transport units: | 20 |
| BLS ambulance services:  | 74 |
| ILS ambulance services:  | 23 |
| ALS ambulance services:  | 38 |
| BLS fixed-wing services: | 1  |
| ALS fixed-wing services: | 4  |
| ALS rotor-wing services: | 4  |

## GCEMS Tidbits

- We are awaiting a bid on uniform t-shirts from Identity in Great Falls. The next order will likely be placed in June and will include the new summer version, which is an ash-gray shirt that will be cooler in the summer months.

- Minutes are now being taken at every business meeting. If you are unable to attend one and wish to see what was done or discussed, the minutes can be viewed at the report desk in a blue binder.

- There are a lot of illnesses going around right now, be extra careful to wash hands and use hand sanitizer often. It is crucial to do a thorough job cleaning rigs after calls as well.

## First Responder Class

In an effort to bring in more personnel to the department, we will be conducting a first responder class. The class, which starts May 5<sup>th</sup>, will also include the ambulance endorsement. Students who complete the class and wish to work for our department will be required to complete the EMT basic class after obtaining their first responder certification. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let Brian know. The class will be taught by Training Officer Brian Williams. The course will be held on the following dates: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The NIMS training will be included in the course of instruction and will be required for successful completion of the class.



## Humor Corner

Here are some more "Rules of EMS" for you;

- Rule of Options: Patients, if given the choice between jail or the hospital, will always choose the hospital.
- The Bathroom Rule: If you get a call between 0500 and 0700, the patient will probably be in a bathroom. If you just went to the bathroom, no calls will come in. If you have to go to the bathroom, you will run calls back-to-back.
- The Rule of Weight: Heavier patients tend to locate themselves at the highest possible point above sea level. The weight of a patient increases by each step that must be taken to get them to ground level.
- We are all slaves to the god "Motorola".
- When listening to radio traffic, you will always find someone who should have been an auctioneer.
- No matter what internal issues there are in a department, tones go off, doors go up, trucks pull out, people are helped.
- The stereo must always be louder than the siren.
- Always stop CPR if the patient says "ouch".
- A patient's ambulatory status is always proportionate to the narrowness of the path to the patient. Also applies to the number of stairs between the patient and the rig.
- Your driver will never hit a curb or potholes unless the pt has a bad fracture or is on a backboard.
- Try to keep your pulse rate lower than your patient's. It's their emergency, not yours.

A new section, the "Station 2" news section, will be included in all issues of "The Page-Out" starting in May!

Congratulations Brian and Stephanie Williams on the birth of their daughter, Emily, on March 27, 2007 at 5:51 pm!!