

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

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Published by Kyle Starr, CCEMT/P



GOING GREEN

GCEMS is proud to announce some recent changes that both save the county money and conserve energy as well. Chief Laidlaw recently approved a proposal to begin replacing the 100 watt light bulbs in our vehicle bay with new, energy-efficient lights. The new bulbs put out the light of a 120 watt bulb, but only consume 32 watts of electricity each. They also put out a brighter, whiter light than the incandescent bulbs, increasing visibility in the bay. With 7 lights in the bay, this means that when turned on, they will only use 224 watts of electricity for the entire bay, as opposed to 700 watts using the older, traditional light bulbs. Saving 476 watts of energy per hour not only saves money, but conserves energy as well. Several other energy-efficient bulbs have been employed throughout our station in lights that see frequent use, including in the paramedic's office and the report desk. GCEMS has also followed the county's lead and is more actively recycling materials such as paper and cardboard. Energy-efficient bulbs last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. It has also been determined that if everyone in the US switched to energy-efficient lighting, we could retire 90 power plants, greatly reducing pollution. When turned on, the lights take about a minute to reach full brightness. Got any other energy-saving ideas? Let Kyle know if you do.

The Doctor is In

We have received our new Doctor Down rescue wraps and placed them into service. The wraps are an improvement over the burrito wraps. They have a felt liner and also feature our department logo screen printed on them for identification. They are pretty simple to use, but as with any new item, try to stop in sometime to look at them before you have to use them on a call. They came with IV warmers, which will be a valuable asset now that the winter months are upon us.

Want "The Page-Out" delivered to your email or have a news item you would like included in the next issue, let EMS 27 know!

New Special Ops Truck in Service

A new special operations truck has replaced the older, 1990 model that was recently retired due to mechanical problems and reliability questions. Bids were solicited, and a 2001 Chevy Silverado 2500 4x4 was selected from Bell Motors in Cut Bank. It was outfitted with an LED lightbar, LED intersection lights on the front and rear side panels, and corner strobes. A new topper will be installed soon, as the old one was unable to be retrofitted onto the new truck. The truck will provide a reliable platform from which our special operations division can deploy.

PRN Medics are Full-Time Assets

Our PRN paramedics have been a tremendous asset to our department, allowing coverage for vacation, maternity, training, and sick leave. Thank you Ralph, Garrett, Sidney, Jake, Dick and Dave, you are much appreciated!!

It's in the Water Here!

Paramedic Brian Williams and EMT Stephanie Williams are proud to announce that they are expecting their first child, with a due date of late March / early April. Congratulations !

Uniform Allowance Implemented For Full-Time Medics

Chief Laidlaw has implemented an annual uniform allowance for all full-time paramedics beginning this fiscal year. Our FT medics pride themselves in maintaining a professional appearance, and uniform items can be expensive. The allowance, which is \$250 per fiscal year, allows for the purchase of boots, pants, belts, shirts, insignia, and other items, to allow our FT staff to maintain an inventory of serviceable uniforms.



A1 operates on the scene of a MVA off-road



New Conterra radio harness and Streamlight headlamp added to our special operations inventory



Rosie, EMT/P, from Benefis Mercy Flight, shows the helicopter they operate.

Region 2A Conference A Success

The region 2A conference, held here November 4th and 5th, can be called a success. The event, hosted this year by GCEMS, featured training classes on such topics as ice rescue, comfort one, traumatic brain injury, dealing with agitated and violent patients, and more. As always, the conference offers a chance for regional EMS providers to get together and discuss topics that concern us all. Mercy Flight was able to fly in to discuss helicopter and landing zone safety, though briefly, since duty called and they were forced to leave. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event happen.



Pondering Protocols “Seizures”

Let’s ponder a situation for a minute, say we are having “one of those days” and we have three ALS transfers going on at once and have only BLS coverage for the city. A 911 call comes out for a patient having seizures, would you know how to handle the call? Lets touch on some high points on our seizure protocol, highlighting what a BLS provider would do.

Signs / Symptoms may include: Incontinence of bladder and bowels
Body stiffening (tonic phase)
Body jerking (Clonic phase)
Drowsiness or confusion
Abnormal behavior
Cyanosis or apnea

Can be caused by: Seizure disorder / epilepsy
Fever
Substance abuse / poisoning
Pre-eclampsia (pregnancy induced)
Head / brain trauma

Treatment (BLS) ABC’s!!!!
Use airway adjunct if needed
High-flow oxygen
Protect patient from injuring themselves
DO NOT RESTRAIN PATIENT
Place in recovery position (if no trauma)
Check temperature (if febrile, cool them)
Establish IV if certified to do so, TKO rate
Transport to nearest facility ASAP

Seizures in children are most often caused by fever. Remove excess clothing to allow the infant/child to cool down. Never cool down a patient to the point of shivering.

Safety corner

When arriving on a scene, especially an assault or unknown call, when you arrive at the door, stand to the side when you knock, rather than directly in front of the door. If a person mistakes you for police and fires a shot at the door, you have less chance of being hit and can escape. This tip has saved lives!!

Humor – Reasons We Love EMS

- “My work truck is way cooler than my personal truck”
- “You get to cut people’s close off, legally”
- “Where else can you stick stuff up people’s noses”
- “We never have the same day twice”
- “You get to play with really cool toys”
- “You get to help people and be the “good guys”
- “Two words, lights and sirens”

Accidents with ejection are not to be documented as having been caused by an “anti-gravity storm”