

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

February 1, 2006



Driving

Just a reminder that the ride that the patient and the provider in the back feels is rougher than the ride in the front. Try to make stops and starts smooth and gentle. There is a little technique to stopping so that there is not the “jerk” after the vehicle has stopped. As you slow down to stop, right before the vehicle has reached a complete stop, let up on the brake for a second, then press it the rest of the way down gently. With a little practice, you can stop smoothly with no “jerk” at the end. While driving on the highway with a patient in the back, try to maintain a steady speed and not speed up and down frequently. It can be difficult to write a report while going down the highway when there is so much movement, and carsickness can result.

Recertification Reminder

A lot of us have certification renewal due by March 31st. Be sure to get it in on time so you can keep working !!



EMT Class Almost Done

The EMT class that EMS 9 is set to finish Feb. 18th. Boards will be in March. Several of the class members have expressed interest in working with GCEMS.

Rig Check Sheets Updated

Truck check sheets have been updated to reflect the minor organizational changes made to the cabinets in the back of the rigs. Labels have been placed on some of the bins to help with locating things and restocking. The ALS bag underwent some minor changes as well. Be sure to stop in and see how it's arranged now.



“Car Phone”

Pickup Now Has Lightbar

The pickup was fitted with a lightbar and siren recently, giving it the capability to respond emergent. With the siren, the PA volume switch has to be on in order for the siren to function, just make sure to turn it off when done. This, with the addition of some organizers in the truck bed built by EMS 33, allows the pickup to function as a true QRV, and speeds response back to the station if paged out while running errands. As with any emergency vehicle, just be sure to drive safely.

Tidbits

Wintertime is not over yet, even though it feels like it right now. Be sure to inspect your rescue gear in case you need it on a frigid day !

Starbuck is still hoping to land a job that would keep him closer to home. He misses working EMS, and hopes to be back soon. Keep your fingers crossed for him!!

Assume that any physician who is wanting to help on-scene is a proctologist !

Some of the sheet sets were found to contain two pillow cases and were missing a fitted sheet. If you come across one of these sets, set it aside so it can be fixed, you may need to borrow a fitted sheet from another set.

EMS Facts

of EMS services in the US – 12,254
of EMS personnel in the US – 840,669
of ambulances in the US – 23,575
EMS was federally organized in 1966

New Equipment

Sam Sling – New SAM Slings have been purchased to be put into service. They can work in place of a blanket when securing a hip fracture. An in-service will be conducted at an upcoming training meeting.

Stair Chairs – New Stryker stair chairs have been ordered. One is already in service on A-2. One is on order for A-1 and will be arriving in March. There is a video that shows how to operate it. It would be a good idea to stop in and play with it so you know how it functions. The old stair chair from A-2 was sent to Babb.

Continuing Education

GCEMS has a subscription to 24-7 EMS which allows us to obtain CE hours online via short modules. They are user-friendly and are a great way to get CE hours for recert. Talk to EMS9 about getting a password so you can use it. Once you are set up, EMS 27 would be glad to show you how to use it.

Have some news or something you want in the newsletter? Let EMS 27 know.

New NREMT Testing

The National Registry of EMT's will be implementing computer-based testing and doing away with the old No.2 pencil tests starting in January of 2007. One benefit of this will be quick turnaround, since you will know your results immediately. No more nervously checking the mailbox everyday!

Babb FRA Class

An FRA class is set to begin in Babb on Feb. 18 as part of the effort to rebuild the roster at our remote station. EMS 9 and EMS 12 are going to be primary instructors. Let EMS 9 know if you are interested in helping. The goal is to accomplish the class in five weekends

Ambulance 2

So far, a majority of GCEMS staff has voiced positive things about A-2. Many have noticed a better ride due to the heavier chassis, as well as the larger, more powerful engine. The lightbar should make cleaning bugs in the spring/summer much easier. The phone has not received such rave reviews, but will have to do for now. It does feature a hands-free mode, and all you have to do to use it is dial normally. When you pick up the handset, it automatically switches to the handset. The unit is a little harder to reach from the front seat, so use caution when dialing. If there is someone in the back who can dial for you, consider letting them. The next new rig is already being planned, and will feature more headroom than our current rigs.

Top Lies Told By Paramedics

- 1- I know where I'm going
- 2- This might hurt a little
- 3- It's not my fault, they kept moving
- 4- I did say "clear" first
- 5- Don't worry, I'll cut at the seams
- 6- The gloves are for your protection

Stay Bright For Life

When operating at the scene of a vehicle accident or anytime around traffic, be sure to have either a traffic vest on or your rescue gear. The reflective trim greatly increases your visibility to drivers. The vests are located in the door compartments on A-2, A-1 and A-3.

