

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

February 2007



New Department Brochure

A new department brochure was designed by Paramedic Kyle Starr and has been published for distribution. The brochure is designed to be distributed to regional medical centers to make them aware of our capabilities and what we can do for them. The brochure can also be utilized to give the general public information about us.

EMS 9 and EMS 33 Attend PEPP Instructor Class

EMS Chief James Laidlaw and Paramedic / Training Officer Brian Williams attended a PEPP instructor class held January 20th and 21st. GCEMS is proud to now have two PEPP instructors in-house who can pass on this valuable training course to our personnel.

New Pickup Shell In-Service on Special Ops 1

A camper shell has been purchased for use on special ops 1. We had contacted dealers in Kalispell, Great Falls, Conrad, and Shelby to seek bids. Kalispell Toppers, in Kalispell, gave the winning bid. The shell is a utility type and features side-opening access windows. The topper should work great for it's desired purpose, and will allow us to keep the vehicle's equipment secure while allowing to be fully stocked and response-ready at all times. The pickup will be stocked with MCI equipment as well as special operations / rescue equipment. A new organizer is being designed and will be constructed soon.



Poster Campaign Set For Roll-Out

The first run of GCEMS posters have been approved by EMS Chief James Laidlaw, and will be published and distributed at the rate of one new poster per month. To date, five posters have been selected for publication out of ten prototype posters. More are planned for design in the near future. We are looking into options for displaying them so the public can view them. If you would like to see the designs that have been done so far, talk to EMS 27.

Shed Organized

The back shed has recently undergone some significant reorganization, allowing for the emergency response equipment such as gas masks, filters, haz-mat suits, and boots to be stored for more rapid deployment. It is highly recommended that you take a look so that you know where things are if you are called upon to retrieve an item kept in there. In addition to the shed being straightened up, the loft in the bay has been organized for better storage of equipment as well. SAR equipment is on the south end of the loft, EMS equipment on the north end.

A3 Cot Troubles

Some people have had difficulty with the cot on A3. A temporary fix has been made to the cot, and it is scheduled for professional service soon.

Special Operations Division to Learn Technical Rescue

GCEMS is planning on expanding it's special ops division in to technical (rope) rescue. With the limited funding and personnel of GCSAR, we feel it important that we be able to operate independent of SAR if necessary, or be able to supplement their equipment and personnel if needed. A list of required equipment has been developed, and personnel are looking into training options to get our personnel qualified in this specialized area. With many grain elevators /silos, and our proximity to wilderness areas, the skills and equipment would be an asset to the department and would allow us to be of greater help to our community.



A6 gets a bath at station 2 while on a break from Red Eagle Fire detail – Summer 2006

Humor Corner

You Might Work in EMS If. . .(Yes, More). .

1. Your pet automatically gets out of your way when the tones go off.
2. Your significant other has cussed you out for leaving the scanner on at night when you were not on-duty.
3. When starting your POV, you have accidentally reached for the "master" switch.

EMT Class Concludes

The EMT class being taught by EMS 9 and 33 has drawn to a close. They will be taking their boards soon. Good luck on the exams!

More GPS Units Purchased

Two new GPS units, identical to those in service in A1, A2 and Command 1, have been purchased and will be placed into service soon. One new unit will be going in A3 and the other in A4.

Brochures (cont.)

The newly designed department informational brochure has been met with positive comments and interest. So far, brochures have been distributed at Pondera and Marias Medical Centers as well as at IHS. The brochures are aimed at the physicians and ER providers to inform them of our capabilities and what we can offer them. A good sign, our transfers out of Pondera increased dramatically after the distribution.

We are now carrying Thomas handles for use on backboards in the C-spine bag on A2. They provide a better handhold when moving heavy patients.

EMS 28 To Return

After taking some time off in January, we are pleased to welcome back Paramedic Ralph Knapp, EMS 28, back to his part-time regular position. He will be returning to his Monday Tuesday shift starting the first week of February



Tidbits

- A storage bag has been purchased and placed into service for storing the leather restraints. It is the red LA rescue bag on the shelf in the medic office.
- ALERT has a rotor-wing back in service and flying.
- Thank you to all of our team who attended the BLS instructor class held on Jan. 31, your motivation is appreciated. For those who missed it while on calls, another will be held in the very near future.
- In the event of an MCI or major incident, there are extra radios and batteries kept charged in the medic office. The battery for the rescue camera is kept on a charger in there as well.
- Please be sure the shower is not occupied before coming through to the bay, it may be in use. If the doors are closed, please knock first.



Upcoming Training

PHTLS	Feb 10-11	Teton County EMS
Childseat Safety Tech.	Mar 5-9	Kalispell Regional
Childseat Safety Tech.	Apr 24-27	Great Falls
Swiftwater Rescue Tech.	June 1-3	West Glacier
BLS Instructor	TBA	Glacier County EMS

Contact information for these courses is on the training board in the bay.

We will be purchasing uniform t-shirts from Universal Athletic in Great Falls from this point on. They came highly recommended by Great Falls Fire-Rescue. An ash-gray shirt has been approved by James for summer wear as well.