

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

January 2007



EMS 33 To Attend CCEMT-P

Paramedic Brian Williams is scheduled to attend a critical care paramedic course being held in Kalispell beginning in January. The class, which will run two days a week until April, covers advanced pharmacology, cardiology, blood administration, and other advanced techniques not covered in the normal paramedic curriculum. Upon completion of the course, GCEMS will have all its full-time and one part-time paramedic critical care certified, a notable accomplishment for any small EMS department. Good luck Brian!

Special Ops Truck Outfitted

Work has been completed on the new special operations truck. An LED lightbar, corner hideaway strobes, new siren, and interior controls have been installed. While more expensive initially, LED lightbars draw far less power than traditional lightbars, lessening maintenance on the vehicle's electrical system and reducing costly repairs. Department graphics have been applied to the vehicle, and the only thing left is to install the LED corner lights when they arrive and to find and install a topper on the bed. The truck proved it's worth during the last snowfall, handling with ease on the slick roads.

Tire Chains

With winter upon us, do you know how to put on the tire chains / cables if you need to? During fresh snowfall before the road crews have been out, it is good practice to have one rig with tire chains installed that can respond in-town (do not operate a chained vehicle at highway speeds). The chains for each rig are kept in the back tool compartment, located by the rear bumper on A1, A2, and A3. EMS 33 has fashioned some wooden blocks, which are meant to go underneath the inner duals. To install, pull the rig forward, place the blocks so that when the rig is backed up the inner duals will drive up onto the blocks. When you have driven up on the blocks, put on the parking brake and install the chains per the manufacturer's instructions. It is a good idea to have two people for this operation so that one person can be a spotter and assist you while backing onto the blocks. Do not exceed 35 or 40 mph when driving with the chains on, and remember that while the chains will assist with traction, safe winter driving techniques must still be utilized.

Tahoe Lightbar Upgraded

The lightbar on the chief's command vehicle has been replaced with a new LED lightbar, replacing the older StreetHawk lightbar that was salvaged off of A1 after it's accident several years ago. The StreetHawk was plagued with electrical problems and shorted-out frequently. The new LED lightbar, with less demand on the vehicle's electrical system, no moving parts to wear out, and no bulbs to replace, the new lightbar will prove more economical in the long run with it's longer service life.

On call at night? Try putting a piece of cardboard over your windshield. If you have to respond, you won't have to scrape frost off.

Safety Corner

Diesel exhaust contains items that are known carcinogens (cancer causing). To prevent these harmful fumes from entering office and living quarters, keep the door that separates the dayroom and the bay and the door that divides the new and the old bay closed at all times. Also, NEVER leave the engine running with the rig sitting in the bay, even for a minute. After you back a rig in, keep the bay door open for a few minutes to help dissipate the exhaust rather than closing the door immediately and trapping it in that bay. Let's all work together to keep the team healthy!

Signs have been posted on the door between bays to watch for wet/slippery floors in the bay, and to keep the closed to contain vehicle exhaust. Think safety!!

New Faces

You may have seen them, you may have worked with them already, but here's a quick introduction. GCEMS is proud to add two new people to our ranks. EMT/P Sydney Hirst works in a clinical setting in Great Falls and has experience with Great Falls EMS. EMT/P Garrett Cameron, as well, has experience in both clinical settings and with Great Falls EMS. Welcome aboard!



GCEMS Posters

GCEMS is developing a series of posters featuring department photos and highlighting the virtues that the department stands for. One prototype has been published in 16x20 inch size and will be displayed at the next department meeting. For further information, see EMS 27.



DEVOTION

GCEMS is devoted to providing advanced-life-support level care to our region 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Whether a 911 emergency call or an interfacility transfer, the staff of Glacier County EMS stands ready.



You Might Work EMS in Montana If. .

1. Directions to the scene includes "go through the creek".
2. You've ever been trapped in your rig by wildlife.
3. You carry bear spray on your belt by your gloves.
4. You think nothing of driving code 3 through blinding blizzards.
5. You have 4x4 ambulances.
6. You measure transport times to major hospitals in hours.
7. Your 4th of July department cookout has been snowed out.
8. You've gone from A/C to heat in the course of one pt. transfer.

EMS 9 And 33 To Attend PEPP Instructor Class

EMS Chief James Laidlaw and Paramedic Brian Williams will be attending a PEPP instructor class to be held January 20 and 21. Having in-house PEPP instructors will be a great addition to our training division.

EMT Refresher Growing Nearer

For those whose licenses are up for renewal this spring, be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming EMT refresher. It will be held 0900-1700 on January 6th, 13th, and 14th. There is a prerequisite for the refresher, the mandated WMD Awareness Level training, available online at <http://www.teexwmdcampus.com>. The course is free, and is mandatory to recertify in Montana now. Per training division memo dated 12/7, this course was due to be completed on 12/31. If you have not done so yet, please see Training Officer Williams ASAP. Thanks.

Tidbits

- Please leave the rear module power "on" at all times now. If turned off, the laptop will not charge.
- Thank you to EMS 20 for braving the cold on multiple occasions to ensure that the front apron is cleared of snow.
- The top "attic" in the bay has been cleaned and organized. Much of the disaster equipment such as chemical suits, SCBA's, gas masks, etc. will be moved from the back shed to the bay for easier access in event of an emergency.
- Please be aware that the department pickup is 4wd, but that it is meant to be part-time 4wd only. Using it for long periods will damage the transmission. Operating at highway speeds in 4wd will also cause wear and possibly damage the drivetrain.



- A list of duties that each paramedic is responsible for has been posted on the board. For questions about those topics, please see the appropriate medic.