

# The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

March 1, 2006



## Tidbits

When was the last time you checked your personal first responder kit? Some little items such as antibiotic cream and even some bandages and dressings have expiration dates. It is a good idea to check your kit at least every 6 months, and to replace any dressings that have expired or have damaged packages that could render them non-sterile.

The personnel roster is updated frequently, make sure you have an updated copy at home.

Effective immediately, all transfers done during business hours need to be pre-approved by EMS 9 or 6. This is due to a conflict with Medicaid regulations. We may not be paid for the transfer.

Refusal Forms – We have refusal forms to have signed in the event of a non-transport. These forms are in the clipboard along with the run reports. These forms take the place of the refusal line on the run report. The refusal forms have a much more detailed waiver information and protect us from liability much better than the old method. Please use them!

## Website Overhaul

If you go to [www.glacierems.com](http://www.glacierems.com) in the near future, you will notice some big changes. One of the things that paramedic Brian Williams brought to Glacier County is some innovative web page design ideas. The new site will feature interactive truck tours in which the web surfer can “open” compartments and see what is inside, as well as updated photos and information. It will be updated at least monthly. Many web sites link to ours, and we want the site the best it can be so people keep coming back to view it. Many ideas are being kicked around for site content, If you have any feedback or ideas, let Brian know.

## Medics go to new Schedule

Effective on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> when the new schedule came out, the medics switched to a new shift schedule. They are now working a 36-hour week in the station and will be doing 3, 12-hour shifts in the station from 7am to 7pm, taking call at home after 7pm. This schedule was created to increase medic morale, decrease fatigue caused by working 96 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> out every week, and reduce overtime. Ralph (EMS28) will be working Mon/Tue every week to allow this new schedule to function. There will likely be more part-time medics helping out as well to allow for vacation/sick days, etc. This does not affect the paid-on-call FRA's and EMT's, but is welcome relief for medics. This new schedule will be implemented on a trial basis to begin 2/26 and will end at the end of the budget period. At that time a determination will be made whether or not to keep the new schedule.

## Baywatch

**New lines have been painted in the bays for A1 and A2. The blaze orange paint will hopefully be more visible when backing. The bay has also been subjected to some early spring cleaning and some things were reorganized to optimize space. The new lines will endure better if everyone could make an effort to use the lines as a guide and park next to them rather than on them. This will keep them serviceable much longer.**

## EMS and the Internet

The internet provides a valuable resource to EMS and it's providers. You can use the internet to obtain CE hours, keep up-to-date on EMS issues, check your license status, recertify, and much more. Here are some good EMS-related websites. .

National Registry  
Montana License Lookup  
Wilderness Med. Assoc.  
Glacier County EMS  
American Amb. Assoc.

[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)  
<http://app.mt.gov/lookup/index.html>  
[www.wildmed.com](http://www.wildmed.com)  
[www.glacierems.com](http://www.glacierems.com)  
[www.the-aaa.org/](http://www.the-aaa.org/)

## Pick-Up Update

The pickup has a new radio in it, and is wired in with the ignition, so no more having to remember to turn it on and off, it will automatically come on when you start it and turn off when you shut the engine off. The siren and lights are ready to utilize as well, just turn them on.

Some concerns were raised recently regarding issues of maintenance, in particular tires and heater function. The tires were rotated on 2/24, and new tires are slated for sometime late spring.

## CPAP is Here

The new CPAP system has arrived, and medics will be receiving training on it in the near future. Dr. Barran will be reviewing our protocol on it, and it will be placed into service as soon as it is signed and the medics are trained. This will add a new capability to GCEMS and will be of benefit to severe respiratory patients.

## Chief's Corner

More effort needs to be put into post-call maintenance and keeping vehicles clean inside and out. Please remember that the trash needs to be cleaned out of the front as well as the back of the rig after every call. Some people already make a habit of giving the patient compartment a good wipe down before leaving the destination on transfers, others may wait until they get back to the station. Out of town may be a better decision because you're not subject to call, and you can take 5 minutes and have it done. Besides, what happens if you come back into town with the back dirty and get another call before you get to the station to clean it? Remember that you can get paid for doing rig washes as well, and rig washing is everyone's responsibility.

## Starr Family to Grow

Kyle (EMS27) and his wife Karla are pleased to announce that they will be expecting the arrival of a baby sometime in October. It will be their first child.



## Dose of Laughter

Funny EMS definitions:

Dilate:	To live long
Seizure:	A Roman emperor
Enema:	Not a friend
Impotent:	Distinguished, famous
Node:	Was aware of
Barium:	What you do if they die
Pelvis:	Cousin of Elvis

You know you've been in EMS too long when you see a bed and don't know what it's for, and coffee is necessary for life, not because you like it.

## Fun Fact

**What does the EMS star of life stand for, and when did it come into use?**

**The EMS star of life was patented in 1977. The six barred cross was adapted from the medical identification symbol of the American Medical Association (AMA). The six bars represent the six functions of any EMS system. The snake and staff represent Asclepias in Greek mythology, who supposedly learned the art of healing. He was a feared god because others thought he could make people immortal. The original six functions are detection, reporting, response, care on-scene, care in-transit, transfer for definitive care.**

## More Tidbits...

The report desk was the subject of some recent spring cleaning. The old organizer was no longer able to neatly hold all forms, and the space gives report writers more room to work. All reports and forms are on the first shelf and are labeled. A clip light was placed there to provide more light for report writing. The LP12 battery charging station was moved to the small grey cabinet where it would be more logically placed for switching out batteries.

The computer upstairs was upgraded to Windows XP. It is still an older computer and runs slow, but the upgrade seems to have helped the frequent crashes that plagued it in the past. Kyle and Brian will be looking into grants that would allow the purchase of a quality computer for upstairs.

The EMT class that EMS 9 was teaching has completed their classroom work. The FRA class in Babb is progressing well with good turnout. They will be done in the near future, with boards planned for March.

EMT's don't always get to "tech" calls very often and may get rusty on paperwork procedures, etc. To help, a post-call check list has been placed by the phone at the report desk.

**Please remember that if you trade a shift with someone or someone is covering for you, let the duty medic know of the change so a note can be made on the daily status board. Also, keep in mind that per the policy manual, any trades must be with someone of equal or higher certification level.**