

The Page-Out

September, 2006

The Page-Out is back! I apologize for the gap in "news coverage", as I have been away much of the summer months for training and vacation time. No need to fear though, **The Page-Out is back!** You might notice that this is not the usual format the newsletter is done in. We are still getting software loaded back on the training computer, and my usual software is not installed yet. Next month's newsletter should be back to the 'ol familiar format.

New Jackets: James will be ordering new winter duty jackets soon. They are lime green and have reflective striping on them. Lime green has been proven to be about the most visible color for use in public safety applications, even exceeding the visibility of the much-used blaze orange. The jackets, made by Spiewak, are of very high quality, and with care, should have a very long service life. The priority of this first issue goes to those who have never been issued a winter jacket, so not everyone will be issued a new coat at this time. If you have not been issued at GCEMS winter coat, let EMS 9 know and get him your size ASAP so the order can be placed.

New Personnel: GCEMS has the honor of welcoming some new personnel to it's roster, both paid-on-call staff and part-time paramedics. Our new paid-on-call addition is EMT/B Angela Eppinger. Many of you probably knew her before she joined the service. Angela has already demonstrated her enthusiasm for the job and that she's not afraid to jump in and get to work. Welcome to the department! Some new part-time paramedics have joined the service as well. EMT/P Jake Hall and EMT/P Dave Garcia have all signed up to work PRN for us. Welcome aboard!

EMS 27 Completes CCENT/P: EMT/P Kyle Starr successfully completed the UMBC Critical Care Paramedic program put on in Kansas City, Missouri last month. It was an incredible program, though very intense, with a lot of knowledge to absorb in a short time. One of the neatest parts of the class (in my opinion) was the airway "bootcamp". We had to do four non-conventional intubations (while standing over the patient, on a seated patient in a car while we laid on the hood, etc.) all in adverse conditions. The room was pitch black, red and white strobe lights were placed to either side of you, and there was water raining down on you. The whole time, , and instructor was yelling in your ear trying to create as much sensory distraction as possible. It showed that while our work environments are far from the controlled atmosphere of a medical center, if you focus, you can get the job done just fine. There were fifteen other students, with Oklahoma, Arizona, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, Missouri, and Montana being represented. The students were from a broad spectrum of EMS, with flight medics, an oil rig medic, an international medical evac team medic, firefighter/medics, and ground service medics being among the class. I am very proud to say that our department ranks right up there with many large departments in many aspects. For example, American Medical Response in the Kansas City Metro area (population over 1 million) has ONE critical care ambulance, which is only on the street during the afternoon/evening. We are able to provide critical care transports almost 24/7. Many of the class were surprised how progressive our protocols were. I was only one of three people in the class who's departments carry and have standing orders for Haldol. Everyone was impressed with our equipment (I had photos on my laptop), and our new bike and wilderness medic programs. There were even a few that want to be notified if we have any job openings in the future. It's always nice to be able compare and contrast with other services, it shows how far GCEMS has come in the recent years. You can be proud of your department!!

Computer-Based Reports: Computer based reports are here! We have two Panasonic Toughbook notebook PCs placed into service, one on A1 and the other on A2. The medics have received training on the system, and so far the feedback has been good. There are always bugs to work out when implementing such an advanced system, but John Ungaretti of Montana Healthcare Consultants in Missoula has been with us every step of the way to get us up and running, as well as to help us customize the system to suit our department. Many of the departments that are clients of MHC have had very positive results, such as increased billing revenue, with the billing service that they provide, and we hope to have similar results. All staff will undergo training on the new system at the meeting on 9/11/06 at 1900. If you have any ideas on ways it can be improved, please let EMS 9 know. The system is very customizable, and numerous changes have already been made based on input from those using the system. The Toughbooks should

work well in the EMS environment. They are more durable than standard PC laptops, and have a 3+ hour battery life. Just remember to keep them plugged in in the back of the rig when not in use.

Fire, Fire Fire!! Thank you to everyone who volunteered for service at the Red Eagle Fire last month, and to those who backfilled in town to cover the vacancies left by those at the fire. For many of us, it was our first fire duty, and was a good learning experience. It was impressive to see the incident management system in use and done by the book. GCEMS is planning on putting together a red card class and pack test in the near future so that our staff will be ready by the time the next fire season starts. Being red-carded would make us even more versatile and would allow us to expand our range of duties that we could perform while on a fire incident. Keep checking the training board for updates.

EMT/B Class: There will be an EMT/B class starting up this fall to be held at the GCEMS station. We would like to see EVERY first responder be in this class and upgrade to EMT/B. If you are interested in being a lab assistant or playing a patient at times during the class, let James and Brian know so they can get you on a list. Further information will be placed on the training board as we finalize the class.

Bike Medic Program a Success: Montana Fun Weekend proved to be a great place to put our bike medic program into action. Many compliments were received by visitors at the event on the bike program, as well as the yellow bike patrol shirts. It proved an excellent way for EMS to interact with the public, and four patients were treated and released by bike medics on Saturday alone. Joe (AC Officer) even challenged to a race between the CBPD bike and the GCEMS bike next year!

Kudos: Just a quick thank you to everyone who chips in to keep the station squared away, both inside and out. Not everyone sees the inside of our station, but a lot of people see the outside of our station. The more "squared away" it is, the more of a positive impression it makes on people. Keeping our station and our fleet looking sharp is to many people a direct reflection of our professionalism as a department. What would your impression be of a service that showed up with an immaculate rig inside and out, as opposed to one that came with a dirty rig with a dirty patient compartment? This is one area in which small details count for big points. Keep up the good work!

New Uniform T-Shirts: GCEMS is updating our uniforms with a new t-shirt design. The design was drawn up by EMS 27 and were approved by EMS 9 after some minor changes. The design allows for easy recognition to the public, and are a modern design that fits in with GCEMS's progressive attitude. The design will be white on navy blue shirts. We are going to a poly/cotton blend that does not fade nearly as fast as the 100% cotton shirts do. The graphics will be screen printed on, and will far more durable than the vinyl designs of our past shirts. Currently we have separate shirts for paramedic, EMT/B, EMT/I, and First Responder. The new designs will be either paramedic or EMT. If you want to purchase additional shirts besides the one's you will be issued, the prices will be as follows:

Short Sleeve:	\$10.50 each
Long Sleeve:	\$15.50 each
1/4 Zip Sweatshirts:	\$30.00 each

The long sleeve shirts will have our patch logo on the front, though it will be done in white and simplified. The order will be placed in the near future after the final proof of our patch design has been approved by EMS 9. If you wish to purchase any uniform items at your cost, let EMS 9 know ASAP. The order will take about 2 weeks to come in after it is placed. The new design will be placed on the board upstairs in the training room for anyone interested in previewing it.

New Equipment: We were able to procure a new piece of equipment through a grant. A fiber optic rescue camera has been added to our inventory recently. The camera has a flexible shaft and infrared night vision capability to allow it to be snaked into debris to search for victims and evaluate them. A speaker and microphone allow the user to hear voices in confined spaces as well. The addition of this equipment allows us to further our special operations capabilities and assist other agencies during special rescues tasks.